

SEE IT FOR YOURSELF: TWO TICKETS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE FOR TOKEN, PAGE 5, THURSDAY REVIEW

the AVENGERS



No 3,694

88-PAGE LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT

INSIDE: THE ONLY
OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE
TO UNIVERSITY VACANCIES

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 1998

(150p) 45p

BROADSHEET REVIEW

Redford, the
lonely legend

MI5 and CIA accused over death of UN chief

BRITISH, South African and US agents have been implicated in the death in 1961 of the United Nations secretary-general, Dag Hammarskjöld, in letters presented to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chairman of the TRC, which is charged with exposing apartheid-era atrocities, yes-

BY MARY BRAID
in Johannesburg

terday said the letters were only recently uncovered and their veracity had not been determined. Suspicion has always hung over the death of Hammarskjöld, killed with 15 others when their plane exploded just before landing in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia. He had

been trying to mediate between the Congo and the breakaway province of Katanga. Independent commissions set up by Sweden, the US and Northern Rhodesia concluded pilot error was probably to blame.

The TRC found eight letters implicating the agents during investigations into another matter. They are in the hands of President Nelson Mandela

and the Justice Minister, Dulah Omar, who will decide what should be done with them.

The letters, marked Top Secret, describe meetings between the CIA, MI5 and the South African Institute for Maritime Research (SAIMR). Archbishop Tutu said the latter was believed to be a front company. The correspondence is between two SAIMR employees who sign themselves Captain and Commodore. It outlines a mission dubbed Operation Celeste to kill Hammarskjöld. One letter says: "It is felt Hammarskjöld should be removed." It also details an alleged meeting between British spies and SAIMR employees. The undated letter says: "Allen Dulles [CIA head] agrees and has promised full co-operation

from his people." According to the letters, TNT was to be planted in the plane's wheel bay. It was expected to explode as the wheels retracted on take-off but after that failed to happen the bomb may have detonated as the plane came down. No motive for the alleged assassination plot is mentioned.

Archbishop Tutu said that while the letters' veracity was

not established, they were being released to maintain the TRC's transparency.

Theories about Hammarskjöld's death emerged days after the crash. Newspapers said Britain was supporting the rebel leader, Moise Tshombe, and opposed UN policy on Katanga. In 1992, ex-UN officials said mercenaries hired by Belgian, US and British min-

ing companies shot down the plane, as they believed their businesses would be hurt by Hammarskjöld's peace efforts.

Last night the Foreign Office said: "Intelligence agents of the United Kingdom do not go around bumping people off. At this time ... Soviet misinformation was quite rampant, so [the letters] may have been put out by them."

Screw turns on renegade republicans

AS IRELAND yesterday buried 16 of the 28 people who died in last Saturday's bombing in Omagh, the Dublin government tightened the screw on dissident republican organisations with a package of "draconian" measures.

As Sinn Fein's president, Gerry Adams, and David Trimble, Ulster Unionist leader and First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly, attended the moving funeral of three young boys in Buncrana, the Irish cabinet agreed what the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, called a "stringent and hard" response aimed at mopping up the Real IRA. Five new proposed offences, including directing terrorist activity, will be brought before the Dail in an emergency session in a fortnight.

Security sources hope that a statement from the organisation, which declared a suspension of its violence, would amount to a full ceasefire. But it was made clear that the statement would not deflect the security forces north and south from plans for a determined push against the group.

In the wake of the bombing, suspected members of the organisation are being treated as parishes, with its alleged leader, Michael McKevitt and his partner, Bernadette Sands-McKevitt, fleeing from their Dundalk home in fear of reprisals.

None the less, there are distinct signs that the Irish government and Sinn Fein, and possibly the British Government, have had contact with them. Such contacts may have helped bring about the suspension announcement.

Mr Ahern said the legislation was "extremely draconian, but I am not prepared to take a

BY DAVID McKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

chance with anything else". He said new offences would be created of directing an unlawful organisation, possessing items for purposes connected with firearms and explosives or fences, withholding information, unlawfully collecting information and training people to use firearms or explosives.

New restrictions are to be placed on the right to silence, allowing inferences to be drawn from a suspect's failure to an-

mourners at yesterday's funerals were the Irish President, Mary McAleese, Mr Trimble, the Social Democratic and Labour Party leader, John Hume, and Mr Adams. Those buried included Protestants, Catholics and a Mormon. Among them were a Unionist party official, an official in the Gaelic Athletic Association, a toddler who had survived premature birth and a student who was waiting to hear his GCSE results.

Mr Trimble and Mr Adams came from opposite sides of the political divide to join thousands remembering three young friends at the church of St Mary's in the tiny seaside town of Buncrana, Co Donegal. In scenes mirrored at funerals for 13 other victims, they crowded lanes around the hilltop church to pray for James Barker and Sean McLaughlin, both 12, and Gran Doherty, eight.

The mourners heard the Catholic Bishop of Derry, the Most Rev Seamus Hegarty, appeal directly to the bombers to repent and "resolve finally to give up their immoral trade in destruction and death, not temporarily or conditionally but permanently, and to seek forgiveness for the atrocity which they have done".

Sinn Fein's chairman, Mitchel McLaughlin, disclosed that the party had been in contact with the Real IRA through intermediaries to press its demand that the group renounces violence for good. He said: "We did make it known to the group that there was a need to discuss this issue to try to recover the situation from the disastrous consequences of Saturday. There is ongoing work which requires a degree of sensitivity and very, very discreet management."

Meanwhile, among the swelled police questions, Detention will be allowed for up to 96 hours rather than 48 hours.

British ministers are meanwhile putting together their own package of possible measures, which will include provisions to secure easier convictions on charges of membership of illegal organisations.

Extra security presence has already been put in place on both sides of the border while anti-terrorist officers from Scotland Yard are helping the Royal Ulster Constabulary investigation into the bombing. Five men arrested earlier this week are still being held for questioning in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, among the

INSIDE

*McKerr's go into hiding; Hundreds pay respects to the victims, page 5
Leading article, Review, page 3
David McKittrick, Review, page 4
Funeral sermon, Review, page 4*

Higher A-level grades start rush for places

A-LEVEL RESULTS, which will be published for about 330,000 candidates this year, show the smallest improvement for a decade. But the number of students awarded the highest grades has risen more sharply than the scramble for top universities will be as fierce as ever.

Experts believe that the inexorable rise in the pass rate is slowing as it nears 90 per cent. It had been rising at 1-2 per cent a year, but this year was up from 37.6 to 37.8 per cent. The proportion of entries awarded grade A rose 0.6 per cent and that for A-C grades 0.8 per cent. Exam-board officials said A-

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

levels' popularity continued to grow, with a rise in entries - 2.7 per cent - greater than the increase in 18-year-olds.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, congratulated candidates on their success.

He underlined his belief that successive rises in the pass rate did not mean standards were falling. "I am confident that these results reflect real achievement. The exhaustive study undertaken by Ofsted and others found no evidence that standards had fallen," he said.

Directors of leading companies were unconvinced. Ruth Lea, head of the Institute of Directors' policy unit, said: "[Employers] see people coming to them with a fistful of A-levels and even a degree who do not have the basic skills that would make them employable."

Dr Ron McLone, convenor of the joint forum for the GCSE and GCE, said changes in results reflected students' ability. "The standard of A-level is constant. It is rather like the London marathon. More people complete it and more complete it faster but that doesn't mean it is getting easier".

Full details, page 4

THE LONDON INSTITUTE

CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ARTS
CENTRAL SAINT MARTIN'S
COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
CHELSEA COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION
LONDON COLLEGE OF PRINTING



Avant Guard.

FOR COURSE INFORMATION
CONTACT RACHEL HUDSON
65 DAVIES STREET, LONDON W1V 2DA
TELEPHONE 0171 514 8081 FAX 0171 514 6131
Email: marcom@linst.ac.uk

THE LONDON INSTITUTE

London mayor wanted. Only brainy need apply



WRITTEN "LOYALTY" and intelligence tests for candidates to be Mayor of London are being devised by the Labour Party in what critics claim is an attempt to block Ken Livingstone from standing for the post.

London Labour Party members reacted with anger yesterday at the news that Millbank officials had finally come up with

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

a way to "stop Ken". It is understood that all potential candidates for the mayoralty and the 25-seat Greater London Assembly would have to undergo written and oral tests on their "knowledge and communication" of party policy, in a scheme

called Project 99. The project's aim is to have a "good Labour candidate" in every seat.

Party sources said that mayoral hopefuls would face a "scientific" exam paper that would test their ability to master a brief quickly and handle "real-life" crises. Ability to perform on television would also be tested. A National Executive

Committee selection panel would then weed out the candidates with the lowest test scores. The approved shortlist would be put before all party members in London.

Although Mr Livingstone is a consummate media performer, the Brent East MP and former GLC leader has criticised several areas of party poli-

cies, from tuition fees for students to the Chancellor's running of the economy.

Geoff Martin, a member of the Labour Campaign for a People's London, said the move was deeply undemocratic. "They have been trying hard to find a way to knock Ken out of any contest and it looks like this is it."

INSIDE
FULL CONTENTS
PAGE 2
TODAY'S TV
REVIEW, PAGE 24

HOME
Designs for a part of the Millennium Dome dedicated to religion may be scrapped

HOME
The motor industry is to attack government transport policy with a £12m PR campaign

FOREIGN
The FBI raided a Nairobi hotel as part of its inquiry into the US embassy bomb

BUSINESS
Boots has sold the Do It All DIY chain for £68m but will book a £132m one-off loss

SPORT
Manchester United looked to have failed in their £12m bid to sign Dwight Yorke

9 770951 946542

PAGE 6

PAGE 9

PAGE 10

PAGE 13

PAGE 24

3

I his
t you
ones
of an
place
his
nal.
ist as
and
ould
back
had
air-
age.
to do
I have
s and
Now,
oshop
Stal
r own
ticle,
age 3

INC

INDEX**HOME NEWS**
PAGES 2 - 9

Barr 'to blame for E. coli deaths'
 Butcher John Barr was accused of 'deliberate deception' that led to unnecessary deaths by an inquiry into an outbreak of E. coli food poisoning. Page 4

UK is worst for maternity leave
 The UK is bottom of the European league for giving maternity pay and paid parental leave. Page 9

FOREIGN NEWS
PAGES 10 - 12

Warning to quit Afghanistan
 Aid organisations began evacuating their workers from Afghanistan after a warning by the UN of a 'serious threat to non-Muslims' in the country. Page 10

Support ebbs away from Clinton
 As Monica Lewinsky prepared for her second grand jury appearance, the political establishment steered an ever-wider berth around President Clinton. Page 11

BUSINESS NEWS
PAGES 13 - 17

Russia spends \$3.8bn on rouble
 The Russian central bank admitted \$3.8bn of the \$4.8bn advanced by the IMF has been blown in a futile attempt to shore up the rouble. Page 13

SPORTS NEWS
PAGES 18 - 24

Hennman outplays Santopadre
 Tim Hennman's first match as a top 10 world tennis player lasted less than an hour as he outplayed Vincento Santopadre 6-2, 6-3 in Connecticut. Page 21

THURSDAY REVIEW
24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

David McKittrick
 'Can anything good flow from evil, even something as obscenely evil as the Omagh bomb?' Page 4

Bethan Marshall
 'What is rarely asked is whether education is being served by this annual A-level frenzy.' Page 5

Letters	2	Education	14-16
Leaders and comment	3-5	Fast Track	17-20
Obituaries	6-7	Listings	21-22
Features	8-9	Radio, Satellite TV	23
Arts, film	10-11	Concise crossword	23
Health	12-13	Todays TV	24

Cryptic crossword, section one, page 24



RECYCLING
Please return to us for re-use
or for recycling
in the bin lid or 1998

**Want A loan
of £5,000
for just £138.13
A month at
12.5% APR?**

It's simple. Borrowing through Phone A Loan means you enjoy not only very affordable monthly repayments, but also a fixed rate of interest making it easier for you to budget and plan ahead. For example, for only £138.13 a month, you could borrow £5,000 – repaid over 45 months (12.5% APR) which means you'll only have to pay £6215.85. And it won't cost you anything to make a lump sum, or early repayment. With Phone A Loan you decide how much you want to pay, then you can choose either how much you want to borrow (anything up to £15,000), or how long you want to take to pay the loan off (from 12 to 60 months). So, if you're over 18 years of age with a good credit history, try us. Call Phone A Loan Monday to Friday 8.30am to 9.30pm, weekends 9am to 6pm.

PHONE A LOAN
Call now 0800 138 68 98

Calls may be monitored for staff training purposes. Rates correct as of 7/4/98 and written quotations are available on request. The APR and maximum repayment period will depend on the loan period and loan amount. Loans are subject to our assessment of your ability to meet requirements. Yorkshire Bank PLC, Registered No 17413 England, Registered Office, 26 Merrion Way, Leeds LS2 8NA.

YORKSHIRE BANK



An artist's impression of a pedestrianised Trafalgar Square

Traffic ban to clear cars from Trafalgar Square

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

TRAFFALGAR SQUARE could be rescued from traffic and pedestrianised after a change of mind to be announced today by Tory-controlled Westminster City Council.

The council is expected to drop its objections to the proposal and seek a government grant for plans to allow pedestrians to walk freely in Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Parliament Square.

The council infuriated ministers when it blocked the pedestrian plans and demanded 'effective traffic constraint' before approving the schemes.

There were claims that the Tory councillors had 'nobbed' by a Tory-dominated local residents' committee, led by Tessa Kewell, an adviser to

Kenneth Clarke when he was Chancellor.

Prominent Westminster residents include Alan Duncan, the Tory spokesman on health, and Virginia and Peter Bottomley, who have houses in the Smith Square area, which it was feared could become a 'rat run' for drivers trying to circumvent the traffic closures.

The chairman of the council's planning committee, Alan Bradley, will announce today that the council is now ready to prepare engineering plans on the proposals, with a government grant.

The plans were drawn up by Sir Norman Foster and partners to allow pedestrians to avoid dodging the traffic in three of the most famous sites in Britain.

They would allow the partial pedestrianisation of the square by Westminster Abbey. Whitehall would be reduced in width from four lanes to two, enabling tourists to walk to the Cenotaph without dodging cars, buses and lorries.

The main feature would be the closure of the road to the north of Trafalgar Square, stopping the square from being used as a glorified roundabout,

and linking the National Gallery to the pedestrian area for the first time. There would be bus priority lanes, encouraging people to use buses or taxis when they want to travel from Westminster to the West End beyond Trafalgar Square.

Mr Prescott will go to Southwark today to support a scheme to limit city centres to "clean" vehicles which he launched in Chester at a meeting of European environment ministers earlier this year.

It will coincide with plans announced in Florence, Italy, to limit its traffic to clean-burn vehicles, or boats.

Friends of Mrs Grundy expressed their shock at her death. Geoffrey Ridgway, a friend of 34 years, who lives in a cottage owned by Mrs Grundy, said: 'She was the last person we expected to go. She loved her gardening and watching sport and she thought the world of her family.'

A neighbour Madeleine Oldham said: 'Just before she died she heard her grandson had passed his law degree and she was ever so proud of him. This is so sad.'

Four die as boat sinks in canal lock

BY GARY FINN

FOUR PEOPLE died yesterday when a canal boat carrying disabled holiday-makers sank in a lock in the Yorkshire Dales.

Emergency services arrived at Steeton Lock on the Leeds Liverpool canal near Skipton in North Yorkshire within six minutes of being called, but were not in time to save those who

died. An ambulance service spokesman said: 'We were told there were four disabled people on this boat and that it was sinking. We do not know how it happened.'

'We immediately dispatched crews and when we got there

was still one person trapped inside. We tried to resuscitate three others on the river bank but sadly those attempts failed. It's all very sketchy and it's a terrible tragedy.'

A North Yorkshire police spokesman said three of the dead had been on the deck and one inside the boat.

The four survivors are believed to be uninjured.

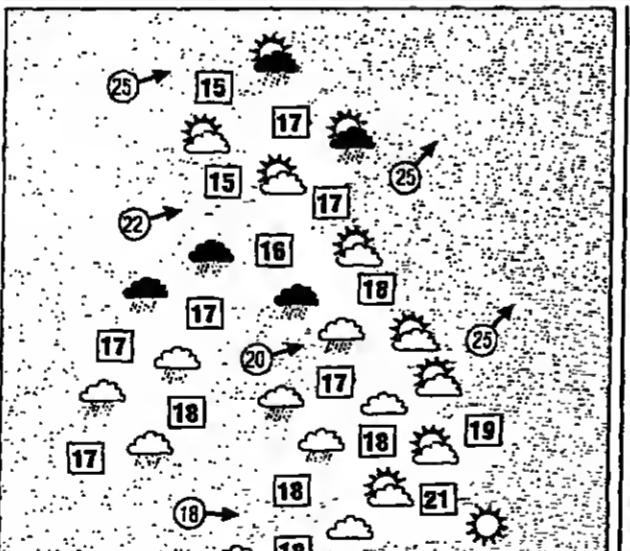
No one from British Waterways, which manages canals and locks, was available for comment.

The accident is the latest tragedy to claim lives in canals and rivers this summer. Earlier this month 16-year-old Glen

McCollum drowned after he and a friend tried to swim across the River Thames at Hinksey, near Oxford.

And an 18-month-old Japanese boy Riku Motomura, from Putney, south-west London, died when he fell from a canal boat while on holiday with his family at Rugby.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Showery in Scotland, with steady rain in the southern parts of Scotland later in the day. Wet and windy in Northern Ireland. Rain will spread towards the north of England and Wales reaching the Midlands by early afternoon.

Southern and southern-eastern parts of England will be dry with some sunshine, especially during the morning.

London, East & NE England, E Anglia, Charnel 1st: Sunny breaks to start, but afternoon cloud will thicken. A light to moderate westerly wind. Max temps 21-23C (70-73F).

E England, Midlands: Early sunshine will fade with rain in places towards the evening. A light to moderate south-westerly wind. Max temps 18-20C (64-68F).

NW England, Lake Dist., Isle of Man, Wales: Rain breaking out widely. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temps 18-20C (64-68F).

SW England: Cloudy with rain and drizzle at times. A moderate to fresh westerly wind. Max temps 18-20C (64-68F).

SW & SE Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Afternoon rain. A moderate to fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 16-17C (61-63F).

SW & SE Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Afternoon rain. A moderate to fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).

SW & NE Scotland, W & N Isles: Showery, with a fresh to strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).

Wales, southern and central England will be wet and windy on Friday. Elsewhere will be showery. Cool and breezy on Saturday with a mixture of sunny spells and showers across the UK. Rain in the west on Sunday, dry in the east.

Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

OUTLOOK

Wales, southern and central England will be wet and windy on Friday. Elsewhere will be showery. Cool and breezy on Saturday with a mixture of sunny spells and showers across the UK. Rain in the west on Sunday, dry in the east.

Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

London: M1/A12 link road. Various restrictions in place.

Until 21 December 1998: Berkshire: M4 between J5 (Shrivenham) and J7 (Stokenchurch). New road layout with a 50mph speed limit. A 40mph zone will be in effect on the new link-road.

Until 12 October: West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Stourton and J42 (Lofthouse Interchange) (M62). Roadworks with a 50mph speed limit.

From 20 November: Berkshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow

LIGHTING UP

Wednesday: Southampton, Hants 25C

(77F); Colchester, Essex 25C

(77F); Canterbury, Kent 25C

(77F); 24hrs to 2pm Wednesdays

Sun Rain Max
hrs

Aberdeen 5.1 0.01 17 63

Audlem 7.2 0.01 19 66

Anglesey 10.0 0.01 17 63

Arlesey 1.2 0.01 15 59

Bath 1.7 0.01 19 66

Basingstoke 4.1 0.01 17 63

Bournemouth 0.4 0.01 24 79

Bristol 1.1 0.01 21 70

Bromley 9.7 0.01 17 63

Brownhills 2.2 0.01 17 63

Cardiff 8.6 0.01 19 63

Chelmsford 1.1 0.01 17 63

Colchester 1.1 0.01 19 63

Crook 1.1 0.01 17 63

Dartford 7.3 0.01 18 64

Edinburgh 8.1 0.01 19 64

Fareham 4.7 0.01 17 63

Farnham 7.5 0.01 19 61

Fleet 5.1 0.01 19 61

Gateshead 6.4 0.01 17 63

Gillingham 4.8 0.01 23 73

Hayling 5.5 0.01 23 73

Hastings 6.2 0.01 19 64

Ife-or-Wey 9.8 0.01 17 63

Ingatestone 5.5 0.01 22 72

Jarrow 9.5 0.01 22 72

Kentish Town 7.0 0.01 23 73

Lancaster 6.4 0.01 20 68

Leicester 11.5 0.01 19 66

Manchester 10.8 0.01 21 70

Newcastle 10.0 0.01 19 66

Newquay 5.9 0.01 20 68

Nottingham 6.3 0.01 20 68

Oban 6.9 0.01 20 68

Oldham 6.3 0.01 21 70

Ormskirk 5.0 0.01 21 70

The 'Sun' did it. Stalin did it. This is how simple it is to retouch history



On the left is the original image of the Labour leaders with Tom Sawyer. In the doctored version, Mr Sawyer has gone, Robin Cook has been reshuffled and Gordon Brown has put on a smile.



IN ORWELL'S 1984, Winston Smith did it for a living. Stalin did it to Trotsky. Ronald Reagan did it to Oliver North. And last week the Sun did it to Shelley Anne Emery and her wheelchair.

When the newspaper excised Ms Emery from a photograph of the England cricket team, it was carrying on a long tradition of picture manipulation that stretches back to the beginnings of photography.

Dictators had a need to alter history, and Stalin managed not only to have Trotsky cut from photographs next to Lenin, but to have himself placed in some to make him look closer to the revolutionary leader than he really was.

After the Iran-Contra scandal broke, the White House's

BY PAUL McCANN AND
KATE WATSON-SMITH

press office airbrushed Oliver North from a photograph taken with President Reagan in the Oval Office.

Today, such chicanery is no longer the preserve of government propagandists. With the advent of sophisticated computer software and digitised photographs, almost anything were ever able to.

Photoshop was not originally intended for the newspaper industry, it was for artists in advertising and design agencies. By turning a photograph into a digital image, Photoshop allows each component part of it to be played with down to the smallest pixel. The advent of powerful personal computers allowed Photo-

shop to be given to every picture editor on a newspaper.

All the traditional tricks like darkening the background to give the subject more emphasis can be done in seconds and this is regularly done by newspapers. Picture sizes can now

be extended by simply sampling electronically a patch of sky or grass at the edge of the frame and copying it over and over to lengthen the picture. So widespread are these changes that they raise few ethical questions in the minds of picture edi-

tors, they do not, after all, alter the meaning of a picture.

More borderline is where a picture is enhanced in the newsroom to make it fit for publication. If a photographer uses a filter to make a sky more dramatic it is considered an element in his craft. It becomes questionable when a desk-based editor, who never saw the original sunset, has a weak picture but uses a computer to make the sky more orange and make the image better.

More dangerous is changing the content so that the meaning is changed. Even in pre-digital days newspapers would commonly move people closer together to alter their relationships. All it took was some scissors and tape.

Donald Trelford, former ed-

itor of the Observer, said that just have replaced his smile - Photoshop will let you blur the joins using skin tones copied from other parts of an image - but we chose to replace his whole head because his eyes are shut in the original.

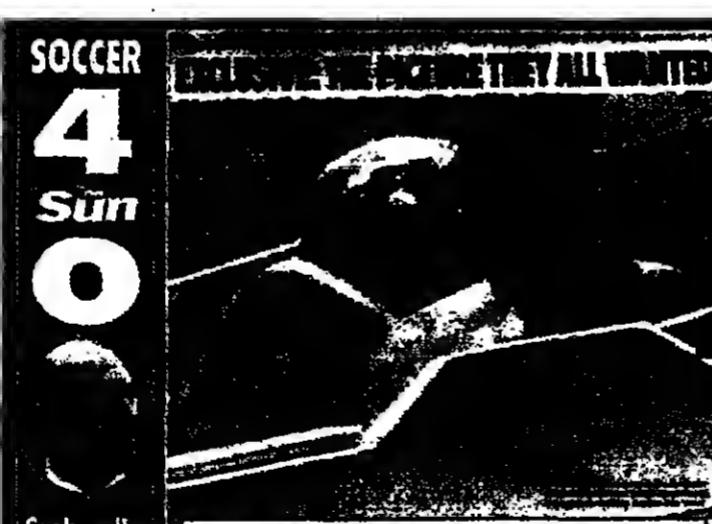
Moving Mr Cook was just as easy. We cut around him and dragged him across so he would cover Tom Sawyer. The "background" from where Mr Cook had been was electronically airbrushed with a neutral image.

Only a few years ago, to do what we have done would have cost thousands of pounds and days of computing time. Now, with a £1,200 PC and Photoshop software, anyone can play Stalini, or the Sun, with their own family album.

Leading article,
Review, page 3

STRANGE AFFAIR OF THE KISS THAT WASN'T

When the Mirror lost out to the Sunday Mirror in the bidding war for exclusive photographs of Diana, Princess of Wales, embracing Dodi Fayed in the newspaper decided to create its own. Under a headline "Exclusive: The picture they all wanted", the paper showed Mr Fayed and the Princess in an embrace. However, the picture was actually weeks old and to make it work the Mirror had been forced to rotate Mr Fayed's head. The News of the World, also mocked-up its own version, but did confess to it. The incidents caused the Press Complaints Commission to create specific rules governing the alteration of photographs.



ODD BUSINESS OF THE MISSING BUDGET DAY FIGURE

The Government decided to try to manipulate images of Budget day last year by refusing to allow the Chancellor's traditional No.11 Downing Street photocall to be taken with Gordon Brown on his own. Instead a group of young people, intended to represent the theme of the Budget, surrounded the Chancellor in all photographs except one in the Guardian. The Guardian decided on some image management of its own and removed the top of a woman's head from behind the Chancellor's elbow to give a more aesthetically pleasing picture. It was forced to reprint the photograph and apologised to its readers the next day.



SINISTER CASE OF THE PURGED COMRADE

Stalin's propagandists became well-practised in the art of forgery because of the large number of people who became non-persons under the dictator. Most famously he had the exiled Trotsky removed from photographs showing him with Lenin. To encourage a cult of his own personality, and to bolster his part in the 1918 revolution, he also had himself placed in photographs with Lenin. Nikolai Yezhov, who was removed from this photo of Stalin, Molotov and Voroshilov, was head of the notorious NKVD secret police from 1936 to 1938 and was himself executed in 1940.

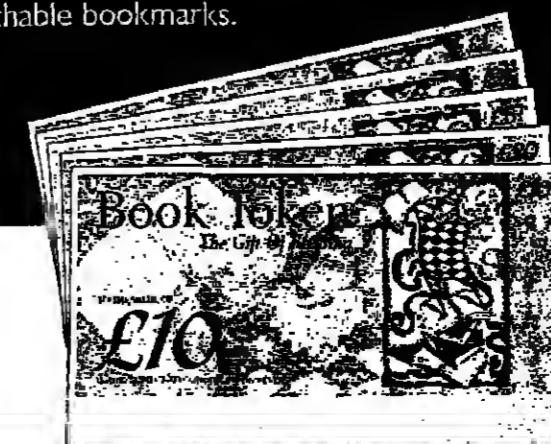


Would someone you know love a Book Token? To help with further studies perhaps? Or maybe just some well-deserved relaxation and fun?

Either way, Book Tokens are the only voucher you can buy and exchange in virtually every bookshop in the country.

You can give exactly the value you want, as Book Tokens start at £1 and go up to £20.

And now you can choose from a wide range of free colour presentation wallets complete with their own detachable bookmarks.



You can buy and exchange Book Tokens in over 3,000 bookshops.

BOOK TOKENS
THE GIFT OF READING

Butcher blamed for E.coli deaths

THE BUTCHER John Barr was accused yesterday of "deliberate deception" and dishonesty which led to unnecessary deaths by an inquiry into the 21 Scottish deaths caused by the world's worst outbreak of E. coli O157 food poisoning.

Sheriff Principal Graham Cox, in the report from the fatal accident inquiry, ruled that had Mr Barr responded "fully and honestly" with officials investigating the November 1996 outbreak, then six

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

lives might have been saved, because the supply of cold meats to wholesalers could have been prevented.

But experts warned yesterday that another such tragedy is inevitable unless standards are improved. "The Lanarkshire case is not an isolated one and is really the tip of the iceberg," said Dr Richard North, who was an expert witness at

the inquiry. "There are a great many other cases out there which go undetected and we need to look at the whole system of food hygiene controls in this country."

Paul Santoni, a lawyer representing the family of Alex Gardner, 68, one of the victims, welcomed the apportioning of blame in the report. He said:

"There appears to have been an ethos of 'no blame, no responsibility' from John Barr and North Lanarkshire Council. In

my view North Lanarkshire Council reacted negatively against all our criticisms made during the inquiry.

"Hopefully now from this disaster we may have learning and successes in combating and controlling future episodes, otherwise the deaths and subsequent pain and suffering will be doubly wasted."

All of the dead came from Lanarkshire and central Scotland. They included pensioners who had attended the same

church lunch and residents of a nursing home at Banknock in central Scotland. The sheriff said they died after "indignified and often very painful illness".

In a withering attack both on Mr Barr and on the practices used at his shop, the sheriff said that at the 37-day inquiry Mr Barr had been untruthful "whenever it suited him". He added: "I have no doubt Mr John Barr liked a clean shop and maintained a clean shop.

"What he failed to do was to

maintain a safe shop and the main ingredient of his failure was ignorance of the requirements which would produce that result."

He had paid "lip service" to environmental health officers (EHOs) visiting his shop and concealed the full extent of his business, which also supplied meat to supermarkets. But the EHOs were also criticised for failing to spot the hazards inherent in the operation of the premises.

The inquiry ruled that there were five key failures which led to the outbreak. There was inadequate training of staff at Mr Barr's shop in Caledonian Road, Wishaw, implicated in

the processes. The butcher's shop also failed to provide clear management structures and "adequate supervision" to enforce safety measures.

Yesterday Mr Barr said through his representatives that he had no immediate comment to make on the findings.

relating to raw meat and cooked meat.

In particular, ruled the sheriff, there was a failure to provide separate knives and equipment for each of the separate processes. The butcher's shop

also failed to provide clear management structures and "adequate supervision" to enforce safety measures.

Yesterday Mr Barr said through his representatives that he had no immediate comment to make on the findings.

A-level results: Students turning to vocational subjects, while standards in art schools come under attack

Exams show past is history

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

YOUNGSTERS ARE increasingly turning to subjects such as computing, media studies and sport at A-level, at the expense of some traditional subjects nationwide exam results reveal today.

The results, which give the first detailed information on pupils' choice of subjects, show entries for computing were up 22 per cent, while those for media and television studies and sport rose by nearly 17 per cent. Business studies and general studies entries were up by 10 per cent.

Conventional academic A-levels in disciplines such as history, French and economics all declined in popularity, at a time when the total number of A-level entries has increased.

The number taking English A-levels also declined, although exam boards put the fall down to the effects of a one-year hiccup in English entries last year.

The figures echo the trend in university applications, revealed last week, which showed a large rise in the popularity of job-related degrees such as business studies, computing and accountancy.

Science subjects, however, held up, with entries for maths, physics, chemistry and biology all rising in line with the national increase in A-level entries.

Despite the growth of newer disciplines, traditional courses still dominate.

But John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, warned: "The decrease in the number taking most foreign languages is a cause for concern, particularly because of the long-term implications for recruiting teachers of those subjects, who are already in short supply. The significant decline in the numbers taking history will also concern those who value the discipline and methodology of historical study."

English remained the most popular A-level, with 94,000 entries, followed by general studies. Mathematics was third most popular with 70,000 entries. Chemistry, biology, geography, history and physics are still in the top 10, although business studies has crept into eighth place.

Home economics was the least popular of the mainstream exams with only 2,418 entries, a slight fall.

Dr Ron McLoone, convenor of the Joint Forum for the GCSE and GCE, which represents A-level exam boards, said: "The main subjects remain popular because there is great strength in these subjects in schools and colleges."

"Other subjects where we see large rises in entries reflect social changes. It isn't surprising that there is a rise in computing or that there is great stress on business studies."

HOW THE SUBJECTS COMPARE

Grades A to E represent A-level passes; grades N and grade U fail (grade N was originally equivalent to an O-level). The figures in brackets are the final 1997 results. Where necessary, grade percentages have been rounded to add up to 100.

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	No sat
Art and Design	23.1 (21.0)	20.6 (20.4)	24.0 (24.3)	17.9 (19.1)	9.9 (10.2)	3.3 (3.9)	1.2 (1.1)	37,119 (35,508)
Biology	15.9 (14.9)	19.3 (19.6)	19.2 (19.2)	17.5 (17.7)	14.0 (14.7)	8.0 (8.7)	6.1 (5.2)	58,457 (56,706)
Business Studies	8.2 (7.7)	19.1 (19.2)	24.1 (23.5)	20.6 (21.2)	14.0 (14.8)	8.1 (8.6)	5.9 (5.0)	37,008 (33,458)
Chemistry	23.0 (21.4)	21.2 (21.6)	18.6 (18.3)	14.7 (14.8)	11.1 (12.0)	6.9 (7.2)	4.5 (4.7)	43,030 (42,262)
Classical subjects	25.9 (24.5)	22.2 (22.1)	19.9 (21.0)	15.4 (15.6)	9.3 (8.9)	4.4 (4.4)	2.9 (3.5)	6,610 (7,125)
Communication studies	12.2 (12.5)	19.1 (18.6)	16.4 (17.6)	17.0 (17.1)	14.7 (14.6)	9.8 (9.4)	10.8 (10.2)	4,911 (5,164)
Computing	8.3 (9.9)	13.7 (13.0)	20.8 (18.3)	20.5 (20.2)	17.3 (17.4)	10.6 (11.1)	8.8 (10.1)	14,643 (11,986)
Economics	18.0 (16.6)	18.1 (17.3)	19.2 (18.8)	17.1 (18.1)	12.7 (13.4)	8.0 (8.1)	6.9 (7.7)	18,670 (20,765)
English	14.9 (14.6)	19.1 (19.0)	22.9 (23.1)	21.3 (21.5)	13.7 (14.1)	5.6 (5.5)	2.5 (2.2)	94,099 (95,223)
Expressive arts	10.6 (10.3)	16.5 (16.9)	25.1 (24.0)	22.9 (21.5)	13.3 (15.1)	6.7 (7.2)	4.9 (5.0)	11,403 (10,826)
French	21.6 (20.6)	20.7 (20.5)	19.6 (19.9)	17.3 (16.8)	11.6 (12.2)	6.2 (6.6)	3.0 (3.4)	23,633 (25,881)
General studies	13.0 (13.6)	16.6 (16.4)	20.3 (18.8)	19.5 (19.6)	15.2 (15.8)	9.0 (9.6)	6.4 (6.2)	80,570 (73,185)
Geography	15.0 (12.0)	22.3 (22.1)	23.5 (23.3)	18.6 (19.4)	12.0 (13.3)	6.0 (6.9)	2.6 (3.0)	44,881 (43,808)
German	26.7 (24.4)	19.1 (19.3)	19.8 (18.5)	15.4 (16.6)	10.6 (12.0)	5.7 (6.3)	2.7 (2.9)	10,192 (10,440)
History	15.4 (14.9)	19.5 (19.2)	20.7 (20.7)	18.7 (18.6)	12.8 (13.4)	7.0 (7.3)	5.9 (5.9)	40,495 (42,706)
Home economics	10.4 (9.7)	17.2 (17.5)	22.1 (21.7)	21.4 (22.1)	14.3 (15.1)	8.4 (8.0)	6.2 (5.9)	2,418 (2,512)
Law	11.2 (11.4)	12.3 (12.5)	17.2 (16.7)	17.0 (17.0)	15.4 (15.6)	11.4 (11.0)	15.5 (15.8)	10,885 (11,571)
Maths	28.0 (27.8)	19.1 (20.3)	16.7 (17.3)	13.9 (14.1)	10.6 (10.4)	6.5 (5.1)	5.2 (5.0)	70,554 (68,880)
Media/Film/TV studies	10.6 (10.9)	16.1 (17.4)	28.6 (28.4)	24.9 (24.2)	13.0 (12.6)	4.3 (4.3)	2.5 (2.2)	13,545 (11,581)
Music	19.5 (19.5)	20.5 (20.8)	23.5 (23.9)	19.0 (18.7)	10.8 (10.8)	4.5 (4.5)	2.2 (1.8)	7,012 (6,951)
Other Modern Languages	32.4 (30.7)	25.7 (23.9)	18.6 (17.2)	11.4 (12.6)	6.0 (7.0)	3.0 (4.2)	2.9 (4.4)	5,157 (5,522)
Physics	22.4 (21.6)	20.8 (21.6)	18.6 (18.4)	15.5 (15.5)	11.2 (11.5)	7.1 (7.0)	4.4 (4.4)	34,244 (33,243)
Political studies	17.9 (14.7)	21.7 (23.9)	23.2 (23.5)	17.8 (18.3)	10.3 (10.8)	5.3 (5.6)	3.8 (3.2)	10,051 (10,825)
Psychology	11.1 (10.9)	16.7 (17.4)	20.2 (19.4)	18.8 (18.5)	14.9 (14.5)	10.5 (9.4)	7.8 (9.9)	29,796 (27,999)
Religious studies	14.9 (14.5)	21.2 (19.3)	22.1 (24.0)	19.1 (20.4)	12.0 (12.4)	6.0 (5.6)	4.7 (3.8)	9,138 (9,412)
Science	11.7 (11.3)	16.1 (15.7)	20.9 (20.1)	23.1 (22.3)	16.5 (17.0)	7.8 (8.7)	3.9 (4.9)	5,246 (5,353)
Sociology	12.1 (11.5)	18.0 (16.6)	19.4 (16.4)	16.6 (16.9)	14.1 (15.3)	10.7 (9.6)	9.1 (13.7)	26,242 (28,337)
Spanish	24.8 (25.0)	22.6 (22.3)	20.0 (19.2)	15.0 (15.9)	9.8 (9.2)	4.5 (5.1)	3.3 (3.3)	5,653 (5,606)
Sport/PE studies	8.1 (7.1)	12.4 (13.9)	22.3 (22.1)	25.6 (26.0)	19.7 (19.2)	8.9 (8.6)	3.0 (3.1)	14,628 (12,449)
Technology subjects	12.2 (12.9)	13.9 (15.1)	23.4 (24.3)	22.6 (22.7)	16.3 (14.7)	7.6 (7.1)	4.0 (3.2)	13,316 (11,680)
Welsh	18.5 (18.6)	22.6 (24.7)	23.7 (23.7)	20.8 (17.5)	9.4 (12.3)	3.7 (2.7)	1.3 (0.5)	953 (957)
All other subjects	13.4 (13.7)	17.6 (17.5)	20.1 (18.1)	16.5 (16.7)	12.2 (13.5)	7.9 (7.8)	12.3 (12.7)	9,703 (9,789)
TOTAL	16.8 (16.2)	18.9 (19.0)	20.8 (20.5)	18.3 (18.5)	13.0 (13.4)	7.2 (7.2)	5.0 (5.2)	794,262 (777,710)

Science includes all science subjects except Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Other Modern Languages includes all languages except French, German, Spanish and Welsh.



Dome may drop zone for religion

A SECTION of the Millennium Dome dedicated to religion might have to be scrapped if a sponsor is not found, the organisers said yesterday. An alternative plan being considered is to use part of the project's contingency fund to finance a drastically scaled-down plan for the spiritual zone.

The funding crisis is putting under threat the plan for the spiritual section of the Dome, which was agreed by the 25-member Lambeth Group of Religious advisers to the millennium project. It includes a pyramid-like spiritual place for contemplation and a "pilgrim's progress" walkway illustrating the history of religions in Western civilisation.

Liam Kane, managing director of the New Millennium Experience Company, admitted yesterday that was proving more difficult to find a sponsor for the spiritual zone than for any of the other 13 in the Dome. Each zone sponsor is asked for £12m.

"The design we have is wonderful. It will provide a moment

BY LOUISE JURY
and CLARE GARNER

of tranquillity in the midst of what will be a fairly exciting day," he said.

"We haven't given up hope of delivering it, but it's a difficult one. I say a prayer every night which relates to finding a sponsor for the spiritual zone."

A spokesman said the company would ask religious foundations, charitable organisations and wealthy individuals for support before it considered using its £20m contingency money.

He said the company intended to find a sponsor for the zone, which has been designed by the architect Eva Jiricna. "This time last year people were saying we wouldn't get sponsors for the other zones. But if we didn't, the design would have to change. You could have an exploration of religion at the beginning of the new millennium, but you wouldn't have this beautiful structure."

The problems for the spiri-

tual zone were detailed yesterday as Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, announced that at least one spiritual aspect of the millennium celebrations would go ahead. A major church service in each of the four countries of the United Kingdom will be broadcast simultaneously live on television from London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and somewhere in Northern Ireland.

Reporting on the more commercial progress of the Dome project, Mr Kane confirmed it would create 5,000 jobs and up to 40,000 people were expected to apply for them. To ensure they have enough skilled workers, the company is to guarantee an interview to anyone who participates in a pre-employment training scheme leading to technical and trade qualifications. Mr Kane said more than £100m sponsorship was now pledged, although the names of the new donors were not revealed. The five principal sponsors so far are BT, Tesco, Marks & Spencer, BSkyB and Manpower.



Searching for truffles - taste variations are probably due to environment rather than inherited traits, scientists have discovered. Denis Cameron

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

Currys

NEW



easy life™

PRE-PAY DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE PACKAGE

- NO CONTRACT
- NO MONTHLY BILLS
- PER SECOND BILLING
- NO CREDIT CHECK
- USE IN OVER 77 COUNTRIES
- ONE TOUCH CALL BALANCE SERVICE

PHILIPS
Digital Mobile Phone
■ Up to 120 minutes talktime.
■ Up to 85 hours standby time.
■ 90 name and number memory.
Model DIGA.

NEW

CURRY'S PRICE
£119.99

only
Currys
BEING YOU
BECOME ALL THIS...

TRUST BRITAIN'S LEADING ELECTRICAL STORE TO OFFER THE FRIENDLY HELP AND ADVICE YOU NEED WHEN CHOOSING A PHONE

BIGGER CHOICE
We offer a superb choice of the latest phones and communications equipment with tariffs from the major networks to meet every need.

SHOP WHEN YOU WANT
Open Sundays and up to 8pm Monday-Saturday.

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years expert service support when you buy a Mastercare Coverplan Service Agreement.

Part of DSG Retail Ltd

ORDER HOTLINE
0500 304 304

Currys
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

AS Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening.
Ring 0990 500009 for details of your nearest store.
Written quotations from Currys, Dept MX, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask store for details.

Black outlook for the truffle

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

about 1,000 tons of black truffles were collected each year in France. This has now fallen to fewer than 30 tons a year. Dr Raymond says in the current issue of the journal *Nature*.

French scientists have discovered that the fungus is highly inbred and probably derives from less than 100 ancestors which survived the last ice Age about 10,000 years ago.

The lack of genetic variation means that the differences in taste and aroma of black truffles, which are found in France, Spain and Italy, are probably due to the various habitats in which they grow rather than inherited traits.

Dr Michel Raymond, a geneticist at the University of Montpellier, said the black truffle has declined significantly this century because of the destruction of the woodlands where it grows underground in a complicated lifecycle.

At the turn of the century

the last population bottleneck occurred after the last ice Age, which had nearly forced the black truffle into extinction.

The decline accounts for why present-day truffles are so genetically uniform, Dr Raymond said. "If there is an attack of disease in truffles this could make them theoretically more vulnerable," he said.

Scientists could discover why some truffles are tastier than others by looking at differences in the soil and general environment where they grow, he said. "Research is needed to identify the environmental variables that affect the black truffle's perfume and taste, which are the objects of intense human interest."

IN BRIEF

Abuse inquiry seeks former residents of children's home

POLICE INVESTIGATING allegations of abuse at a former children's home in Wales are trying to track down more than 7,000 former residents. Eleven allegations of abuse have been made against former staff members at the Ty Mawr Home in Abergavenny, South Wales. Police have not ruled out the existence at some time of a paedophile ring.

Former residents can contact Gwent Police on a special incident room number - 01633 642531.

Heart unit escapes fire damage

A TOP hospital's heart transplant programme should not be affected by a suspected arson attack that wrecked four operating theatres, authorities said last night. The fire at Manchester's Wythenshawe Hospital on Tuesday night is the third in three weeks. But chief executive Jane Herbert said the nearby theatre which performs about 75 heart transplants a year survived with less damage.

Search for divers called off

THE SEARCH for two divers who disappeared while exploring a shipwreck was called off yesterday. John Watts, 50, from Desford, Leicester, and Robert Hadfield, 20, from Lichfield, Staffordshire, failed to resurface after exploring the wreck of the *Maidavia*, 25 miles south of Littlehampton, West Sussex, on Monday.

Bunnies granted reprieve

A MILLION rabbits were yesterday granted a reprieve from extermination by cyanide gas thanks to town hall red tape. Tourism chiefs in Eastbourne announced they are to postpone a cull on the South Downs until next year.

Driving ban for Jamiroquai singer

JAY KAY, of the group Jamiroquai, was banned from driving for six weeks yesterday by Bencosfield magistrates. The singer, 28, drove at 111mph in his Ferrari in May this year, as he raced home to confront a stalker.

BIDISHA

'Oxbridge seems strangely opposed to making life fairer for its students'

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 →

July 1998

August 1998 Ford Dealers' offers



EXAMPLES OF OUR CURRENT OFFERS

KA*
£7,620
ON THE ROAD

Free insurance

FIESTA FINESSE
£8,315
ON THE ROAD

Free insurance

FIESTA ZETEC
£9,315
ON THE ROAD

Free insurance

ESCORT FINESSE
£12,020
ON THE ROAD

Free insurance

0% APR Finance available*

Key features

3 door
1.3 EFI
Radio/cassette
Safeguard immobiliser
Driver's airbag

3 door
1.3 EFI
Power steering
Metallic paint
Sunroof
Radio/cassette
Safeguard immobiliser
Driver's airbag

3 door
1.25 16V
Power steering
Central locking
Alloy wheels
Front fog lights
Rear spoiler
Sports seats and dials
Safeguard immobiliser
Driver's airbag

5 door/estate
1.6 16V or 1.8 TDI**
Alloy wheels
Electric front windows
Rear spoiler
Central locking
Metallic paint
Air conditioning
CD player/radio
Power steering
Safeguard immobiliser
Driver's airbag

Options monthly payments

APR%

£66
8.9%

£90
8.9%

£99
8.9%

£150
8.9%

Options typical examples:

Mileage per annum

Deposit

Balance

Total credit charges^

Total payable

Term

24 monthly payments of

Optional final purchase

payment (MGFV)^^

6,000

£2,500

£5,120

£842.92

£8,462.92

25 months

£65.58

£4,319

6,000

£2,900

£5,415

£845.00

£9,160.00

25 months

£89.75

£4,036

6,000

£3,250

£6,065

£941.73

£10,256.72

25 months

£98.78

£4,566

9,000

£4,200

£7,820

£1,148.88

£13,168.88

25 months

£149.12

£5,320

Connect with Ford now.



ALL FORD CARS HAVE A DRIVER'S AIRBAG AS STANDARD.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT.

*Ka without Power Assisted Steering. **Escort Finesse TDI available at £13,020 OTR. On-the-road price applies to pre-99 model year vehicles registered by August 31, 1998. Subject to availability. Prices based on Manufacturers Recommended Retail Price. Finance and 12 months free insurance subject to status and conditions. ^Including £50 finance facility fee payable with first monthly payment. ^^Minimum Guaranteed Future Value. Further charges may be made subject to mileage/condition if the vehicle is returned at the end of the agreement. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Quotations: Freepost FCE Bank plc. Excludes certain fleets/business users. #0% finance minimum 50% deposit. Vehicles shown are for illustration purposes only. Alternative offers may apply for Northern Ireland.

SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD BYKES



A REGISTERED CHARITY

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful.

We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is **0345 90 90 90**, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

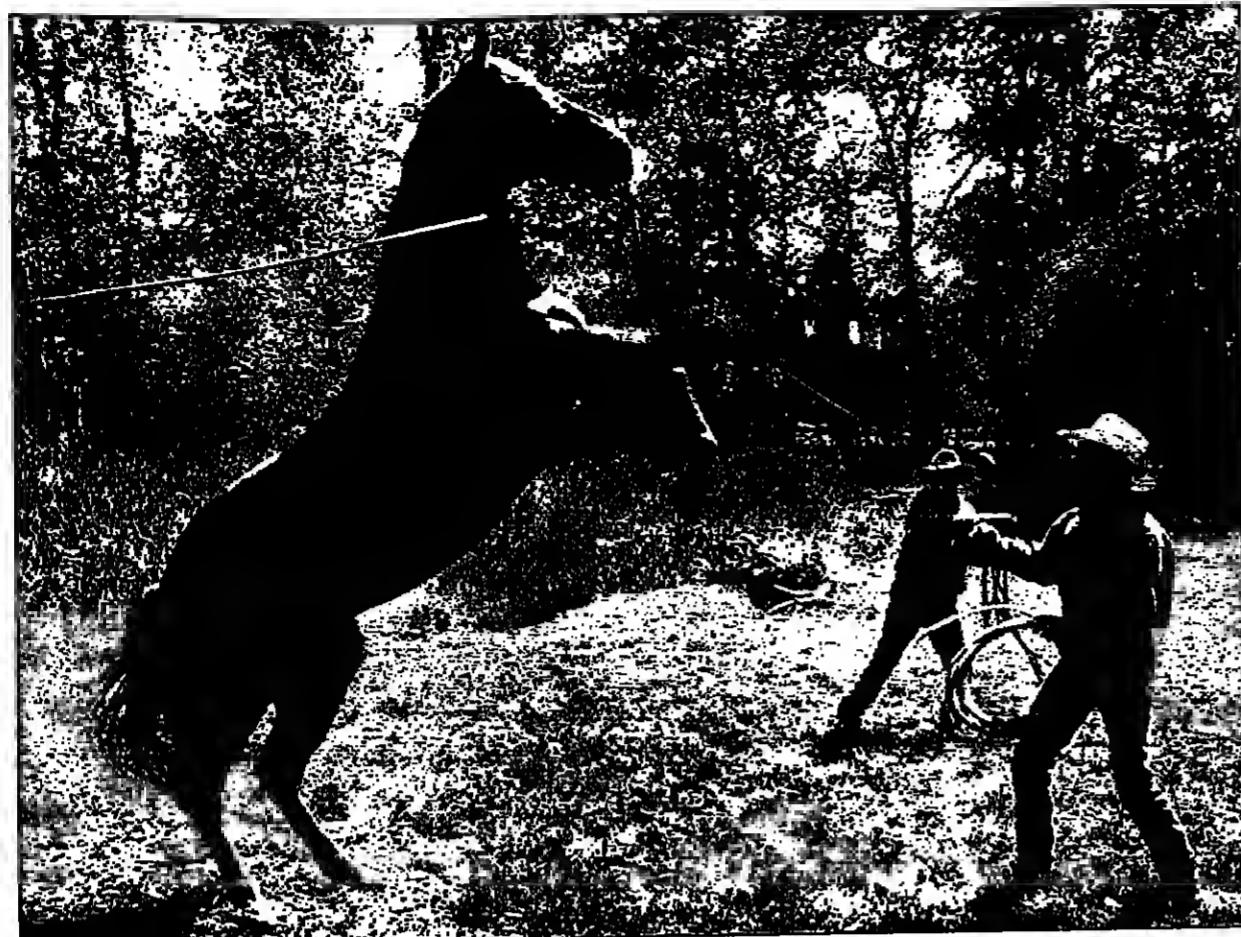
And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us – any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone.

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

The Samaritans

We'll go through it with you.

JULY 2015



Robert Redford as Tom Booker in a scene from 'The Horse Whisperer'

Whisper softly, but Redford may prove a barnstormer

FIRST NIGHT

THE HORSE
WHISPERER AND
WIDE PRAIRIE
EDINBURGH FILM
FESTIVAL

THE EDINBURGH Film Festival scored a double coup last night with the UK premiere of *The Horse Whisperer* and the world premiere of Linda McCartney's 12-minute animation, *Wide Prairie*.

Dedicating the evening to the late Linda McCartney, Festival director Lizzie Francke described her film as a "very sweet and chirpy little animation".

Produced by both Linda and Sir Paul, Linda wrote the music and lyrics for the story of a woman who leaves behind the world of mobile phones to escape to the open country.

But the main event was the premiere of *The Horse Whisperer*, Robert Redford's film of the debut novel of the British author Nicholas Evans. Redford made Evans a millionaire overnight, buying the rights to the book before he had even read it.

Last night's premiere had an auspicious prologue. Ms

Francke had sent Redford an invitation and, because he is a fanatical fisherman, three fly fishing hooks to "reel him in". The letter was mislaid and Redford received only the hooks, clutching them away in puzzlement. He told Ms Francke when they did eventually meet recently that he would have loved to have come to Edinburgh, birthplace of his grandfather.

Redford both directs and stars in the movie as the man with power over horses and over a married, hardbitten New York magazine editor played by Kristin Scott Thomas.

It is a sweeping and often

moving pastoral epic set among the hills of Montana, but the changes to the international bestselling novel are at times thoughtless, at times utterly bizarre.

In the book the magazine editor, hearing her daughter has been in an accident and has to have a leg removed, asks: "How high above the knee?" It is a point of detail that betrays an inability to express emotion.

In the film she asks: "Which leg?" which seems a notably unreasonable question.

Much more importantly, Redford has completely changed the ending. In the book he cannot live with the affair and commits a spectacularly dramatic suicide. In the film he lives and she goes happily back to her husband.

Is the dramatic denouement of the book discarded just so the last shot can be one of Redford gazing moodily over the landscape? As we are dealing here with a man who believes

he can play a romantic lead at the age of 60 and that no one will blink that we do! it has to be a possibility.

But there are compensations. Scott Thomas gives an Oscar-worthy performance as a woman gradually discovering reservoirs of emotion. She can convey pain and desire without need for words.

And one particular scene might yet find a mention in movie history. Redford has been criticised for cutting out the sexual relationship in the book and instead expressing the couple's passion in a long, lingering encounter at a barn dance. But it works.

He and Scott Thomas dance at first apart, then more closely, holding each other's hand, clasping each other's backs in a way that will not alarm the assembled friends yet gives intense expression to repressed desire. The film could start a new fashion for hoedowns.

DAVID LISTER

Industry in £12m pro-car offensive

THE MOTOR industry is planning a £12m public relations campaign against the transport policies of the Government, which it believes is "no friend of the car", it was revealed yesterday.

The five-year strategy, which will target schoolchildren as well as politicians and the media, was disclosed in a confidential internal memo from the industry's umbrella body, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), leaked to the environmental pressure group, Friends of the Earth.

The campaign's aim, the document reveals, will be to reverse the "growing currency" given to the green lobby's policies on reducing car use by "the public and Government".

It will seek to counter the restrictions on car use foreshadowed in the Transport White Paper published last month. Among many other measures, the White Paper envisaged local authority tolls for driving and parking in town centres.

Friends of the Earth said the leak would severely embarrass the motor trade but the SMMT said yesterday that the industry was working closely with the Government and attempts to suggest otherwise were "false".

However, the document does state bluntly that the Government "is no friend of the car".

The five-page memo envisages using schools programmes - a trial programme next year and an extended programme in 2000 - as well as campaign weeks, conferences, direct mail-shots and eventually a £10m advertising campaign to convince both public and policy makers that the industry is taking its environmental responsibilities seriously. The ultimate objective, the document says, is to protect "the

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

long-term commercial freedom of the motor industry and the lifestyle freedom of car users".

In shaping the campaign, the memo says, the industry should move away from stressing the benefits of clean engine technology - "scientific arguments alone proved no defence for Shell in the Brent Spar fiasco", it points out - and use positive arguments such as "cars provide mobility and independence".

Friends of the Earth said it was "hogwash" for the car industry to say it was environmentally responsible.

"This document confirms that the motor industry is not only cynical but immoral," said Tony Juniper, the group's policy and campaigns director. "Why should they have commercial freedom and everyone else be denied the right to breathe clean air? Instead of spending money on trying to manufacture public opinion they should be helping to solve Britain's environmental and transport problems by discouraging excessive car use."

The SMMT said it had nothing to apologise for or be embarrassed about in the memo, which it described as an internal discussion document. "There's nothing new about the motor industry selling its story," said Al Clarke, the society's spokesman. "We have been conducting a PR campaign since 1992.

"It shows that as a responsible industry we are trying to contact and inform people about the real benefits that modern technology is delivering. We are delighted to be working with the Government and their goal of reducing the environmental impact of motor vehicles."

Maternity leave worst in Europe

BY ALAN JONES

THE UNITED Kingdom is bottom of the European league for giving maternity pay and paid parental leave, according to research published yesterday.

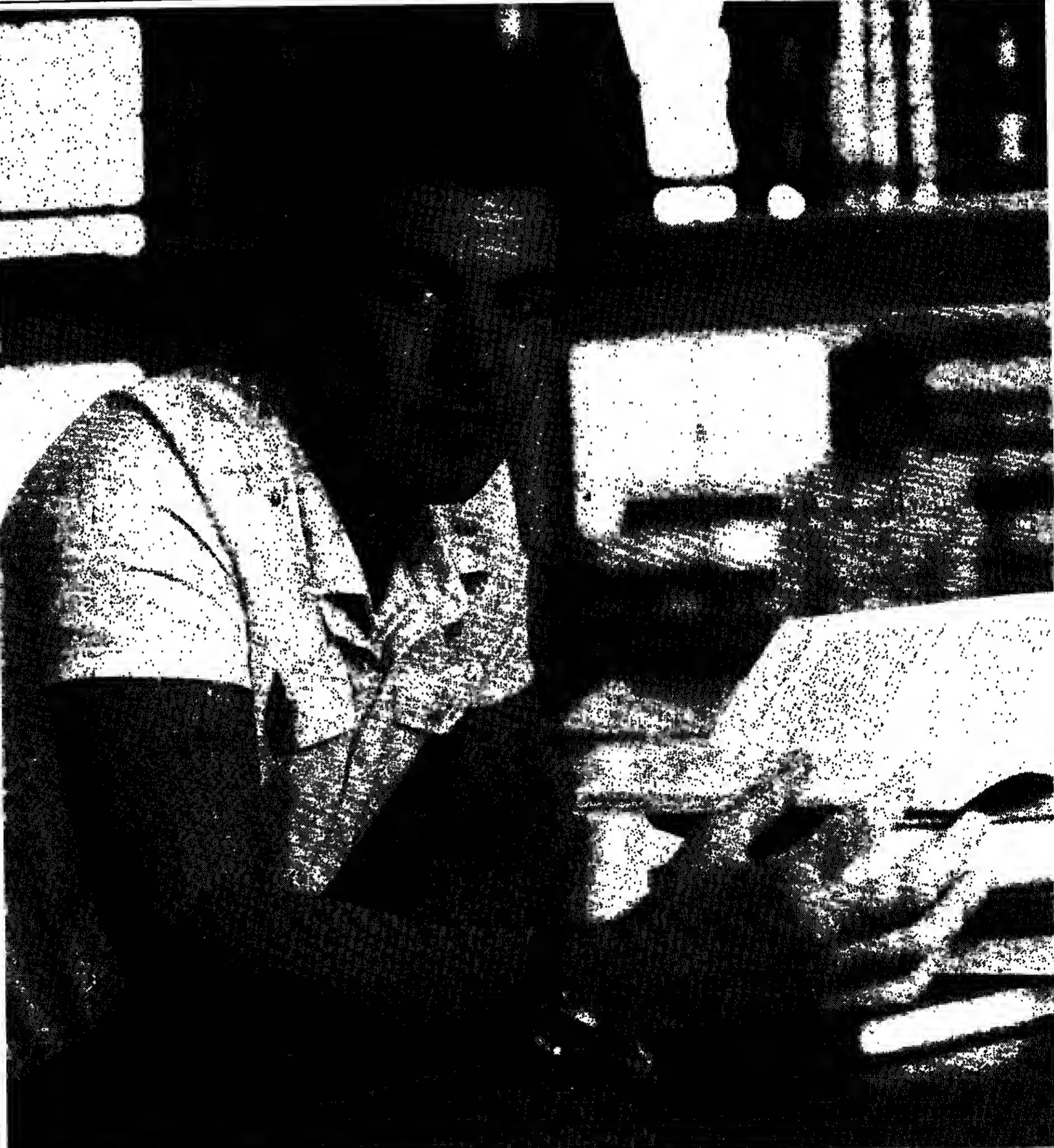
Firms in 15 other countries including Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany and Sweden are more generous than British companies in the amount of paid leave they give parents, the study by the GMB general workers' union found.

The union's national officer, Donna Covey, said: "The UK is bottom of the heap in providing an archaic and unproductive system which penalises those who seek to have children." She said other countries found the resources to give "reasonable" paid leave to pregnant women and to parents, adding: "It is sure-

ly not beyond the resources of our Government to do likewise."

Under new legislation to ensure fairness at work, statutory maternity leave will be extended and workers entitled to unpaid parental leave.

The GMB is campaigning for further improvements, including the right to paid parental leave. It calculated that in the UK, women in private firms with at least two years' service receive the equivalent of 8.6 weeks' full pay on maternity leave. That compares with 16 weeks in Holland, Greece and Spain; 29 weeks in Finland; 31 weeks in Germany; 42 weeks in Sweden and Norway; and 47.7 weeks in Austria.



*Whatever subject you're going to read,
read this first.*

If you are starting in higher education there is financial help available, whatever your age, and you may get more than you think. With the many opportunities on offer to students, higher education is a great way to realise your potential. For a leaflet about the financial support available to you as a student, call free on 0800 731 9133.

D/EE
Department for
Education and Employment



It pays to aim higher

Lewinsky affair: Intern due for second appearance before Starr as President begins family holiday

Clinton loses his support in Congress

AS MONICA LEWINSKY prepared for her second grand jury appearance today, the political establishment steered an ever-wider berth around President Clinton, with long-time political allies conspicuously withholding their support.

Opinion polls taken after Mr Clinton's admission of his "inappropriate" relationship with Ms Lewinsky showed his popular support holding up, but the signs were that, for the first time in his career, the political might trump the popular.

Democrats in California were among the most outspoken, with Senator Dianne Feinstein - mooted as a possible vice-presidential candidate in the year 2000 and a noted Clinton ally - saying: "My faith in the President's credibility has been shattered."

California is expected to see some of the toughest races for the Democrats in this autumn's mid-term congressional elections.

One three-term Democratic member of the House of Representatives even went so far as to add his voice to growing Republican calls for Mr Clinton's resignation.

Paul McHale, of Pennsylvania, who is not seeking re-election this autumn, said: "The consequences when any public official lies under oath should be the forfeiture of office. Regrettably, I've come to the conclusion that the President lied under oath. I would not have accepted that from Richard Nixon. Unfortunately, I can't accept it from Bill Clinton."

While no other Democrat went so far, the word from the

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

White House was that attempts to drum up public support from Democratic Congressmen had failed. On Capitol Hill, the watchword was caution, with a majority wanting to wait to see what evidence had been collected by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, before committing themselves. Mr Starr's report, which could presage impeachment proceedings in Congress, is expected in mid-September.

Monica Lewinsky's summons to appear before the grand jury today for the second time was hailed as a further sign that the investigation is nearing its end. She is expected to face questions related to Mr Clinton's testimony on Monday.

Further reports of that occasion seemed out yesterday, adding to the picture of acrimony and defiance on Mr Clinton's part. The President was said to have interrupted proceedings for a full hour of consultation with his lawyers after refusing to go into precise details of his sexual contact with Ms Lewinsky. His lawyers reportedly broke off the encounter before prosecutors were ready, leaving open the possibility that Mr Clinton would be recalled, this time under subpoena.

Editorial comment in leading newspapers - the first day of considered comment in most of the East Coast press - was highly unsympathetic, even in notably liberal papers such as *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*. The *Wall Street Journal*, which has taken a tough, anti-Clinton line ever since allegations about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky first broke in January, printed a battery of comment. This was led by a column headed: "Why he must go" from the conservative commentator William Bennett, who described Mr Clinton's television address as "the most deceptive, shameless and self-pitying speech ever delivered by an American President".

In a sign of the ripple effect

that Mr Clinton's admission is likely to have, Paula Jones - the woman who tried unsuccessfully to sue Mr Clinton for sexual harassment - issued a statement disputing the President's claim that his evidence in her case was "legally correct". "There is good reason to believe that he did try to get other people not to tell the truth. Obstructing justice is wrong, no matter how cleverly done."

The Clinton family meanwhile was marking Mr Clinton's 52nd birthday in seclusion in Martha's Vineyard. Mrs Clinton, who issued a statement on Tuesday saying that she was "committed" to her marriage and felt "uncomfortable" about the spotlight on the family's private life, was said to have given her husband a birthday present. The White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, had noted as they had "a lot of healing to do".

David Aaronovitch,

Review, page 3

Letters,

Review, page 2



Bill Clinton in 'that tie', with Ronald Reagan's former press secretary Jim Brady, at a White House event

TO "THAT DRESS" must be added "that tie". According to reports in Washington, on the day Monica Lewinsky testified to the grand jury for the first time, Bill Clinton expressed solidarity by wearing a tie she had given him.

The day was 6 August, the place the White House Rose Garden, the occasion a presi-

PRESIDENT'S TIE TRICK

dential speech on gun control. And the tie? It was a jazzy gold and dark-blue diamond-patterned number. It was unusual for Mr Clinton to wear so vivid a tie for so sombre an occasion. A *New York Times* reporter said it sent "a jolt" through certain lawyers.

To Mr Clinton's lawyers it meant at least one gift subject to subpoena as evidence in the independent prosecutor's inquiry had not been surrendered. To Kenneth Starr it aroused suspicions that Mr Clinton might have found a way to send a last desperate (and illegal) signal to Ms Lewinsky before her testimony. To Ms Lewinsky's lawyers it meant the "affair" might still not be over. The message, if there was one, was lost on Ms Lewinsky; she would have seen "her" tie only after she returned from the courthouse that evening, when her testimony against Mr Clinton was complete.

Wounded President can still strike abroad

THE dying days of his presidency, Jimmy Carter launched a daring raid to try to rescue the hostages in the American Embassy in Tehran.

It was a dramatic lesson in American politics just because a president on his last legs does not mean that he will not deliver surprises in the field of foreign affairs and military adventurism. It was also, of course, a lesson in practicality: the mission failed gloriously, leaving American capsules and hardware scattered across the desert.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

As President Bill Clinton confronts his damaged presidency, the world will wonder what it can expect of a man who is clearly hardly weakened, whose party is the minority in both Houses of Congress and who cannot run again for president. Traditionally, presidents quickly discover that though their domestic policymaking is strictly limited - and sometimes in damaging and dangerous ways.

The pillars of the President's power in foreign policy are threefold: political, diplomatic and military. Politically, the President was already weak and is now more so. He cannot realistically expect to get many of his top priorities through Congress.

Diplomatically, America remains America. It continues to wield enormous power in every key arena of decision-making. But at times like these, even that latitude becomes limited - and sometimes in damaging and dangerous ways.

Employing pressure on Israel to end the stalemate in the Middle East, and revive hopes of peace. Why should Benjamin Netanyahu listen to Bill Clinton now?

The most important point is that America's promises have much less weight when the White House is weakened. It cannot, in many cases, deliver.

Aid packages, treaties and trade deals all go through Congress. Allies and opponents alike will prefer to wait out the next two years rather than strike major deals now.

But militarily, the White House is still in charge. Though a difficult relationship with the military because of his decision not to fight during the Vietnam War, the military bureaucracy will continue to function despite the lack of legislative coordination.

The President, in short, can promise little in his remaining two years; but he can threaten. That creates a dangerous asymmetry between carrots and sticks in US foreign policy. As the Carter case shows, pre-

ident sometimes become more bellicose in their final months, both because they want to demonstrate to the world that they are no pushover and because it seems the easiest way out of difficult situations.

President Clinton has used military force only haltingly during his years in office. He stood back from confrontation with Saddam Hussein earlier this year, for instance, during the last clash over weapons inspections. That may not be the case in future.

Angola, Zimbabwe pledge guns to Kabilia

THE RWANDAN-backed rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo threatened to spiral to a regional disaster yesterday when Zimbabwe and Angola pledged to send in guns and soldiers to save President Laurent Kabilas beleaguered regime.

As rebel forces continued to lose the Congo capital, Kinshasa, Zimbabwe's President, Robert Mugabe, claimed that 14-nation Southern African Development Community (SADC), chaired by the South African President, Nelson Mandela, had "unanimously" agreed to send in troops. SADC considered the rebellion an invasion of Congo by Uganda and Rwanda, he said.

But the announcement exposed divisions within SADC. Some member countries - including the regional superpower, South Africa - were clearly horrified yesterday by President Mugabe's undertaking. Yesterday President Mandela, emphasising that he was speaking as SADC chair, said the situation would be exacerbated by sending in foreign troops.

BY MARY BRAID
in Johannesburg

Although Mr Mugabe, one of Mr Kabilas few close allies, chairs SADC's defence committee, the body's status is under internal review. The meeting at which he claims the decision to back Mr Kabilas was taken was attended by only nine member states.

Richard Cornwell of the South African Institute for Security Studies said the SADC split was an ominous sign that the conflict could spread beyond Congo's borders. But he said Mr Mugabe, still bitter about having to hand over the SADC chairmanship to President Mandela, had been engineering an alliance with the governments of Angola, Namibia and Zambia for weeks in support of military intervention. That alliance considers South Africa too close to Uganda and Rwanda.

For Mr Cornwell it marks a humiliating day-long wait, South African government insiders made clear that Mr Mandela thought Mr Kabilas an arrogant son of a bitch.

Mr Kabilas went to alienate Rwanda and Uganda, who put him in power, primarily to secure their own borders. He not only failed to provide security but courted the enemies of his sponsors.

The current crisis owes everything to the Rwandan Tutsi obsession with survival following the 1994 genocide of 800,000 Tutsis by Rwanda's majority Hutus. The Hutus con-

tinued by to find refuge in Congo.

The Tutsi army is far superior to anything that Congo and her emerging major allies can muster. "The Rwandans would make mincemeat of them all," said one political analyst yesterday.

There is considerable admiration - notably within the US government - for Rwanda, regarded as the Israel of Africa. Despite the military might of the minority Tutsi government, however, sheer weight of Hutu numbers make its long term prospects bleak.

In the regional crisis, pre-

cipitated by the Congo rebellion, alliances are switching at breakneck speed, based on shifting self-interest.

Morally the situation is a mess. All alliances are unholly. Sworn enemies at the time of Mobutu's dethroning have become the most convenient of friends.

Senior members of the Mobutu regime, who grew fat and rich during his 30-year corrupt rule, have been sighted in Rwanda. Just over a year after Rwanda chased them from power, the Mobutuists are suspected of bankrolling the rebel army.

In another twist, the rebellion in Congo has breathed new life into a spent political force. Jonas Savimbi, leader of Angola's rebel Unita forces, was written off after Mobutu's departure cut off the supply routes for Unita arms. It is reported that Unita soldiers are now allies of the Rwandan rebels - a development that could hasten an almost certain return to war in Angola. Yesterday, Angola said it was part of a "collective decision" to send Mr Kabilas military help.

Without outside intervention Mr Kabilas may be banished from Kinshasa by the weekend. It is likely that he will set up a base in his tribal stronghold of Lubumbashi in the south where he may perhaps push for the secession of the Katanga region from the vast, unstable Congo.

Rwandan Tutsis can hardly

expect to rule from Kinshasa, where hate radio has been inciting violence against them for the past week. Whether the Congolese opposition figures, which now front the offensive against Mr Kabilas, will be seen as credible in Kinshasa remains to be seen.



A soldier directs comrades who refused to join the rebellion against President Laurent Kabilas. Reuters

HEALTH INSURANCE

Could Prime Health give you better cover at less cost than your current policy?

Call 0800 77 99 55 to find out quoting reference M1897NG

Prime Health

A member of the Standard Life Group

Another place you can pay your TV licence.

'Any chance of demolishing our minaret?'

FRONT LINE

BRADCHIT, SOUTHERN LEBANON

A FEW days ago, a village delegation turned up to see Captain Sean Whelan, commanding the Irish United Nations troops on the edge of Bradchit. Would the Irish be kind enough to demolish the minaret of the local mosque, they wanted to know? The Israeli tank up on the hill behind the village had put 10 shells into the minaret in as many years and it was now in danger of crashing onto worshippers.

But Captain Whelan is as canny a man as ever patrolled a Shia Muslim village and shrewdly realised – once an Irish engineer had shinned up the building and pronounced it too dangerous to dismantle – that the UN might be charged for damage caused by the minaret's removal. Besides, the Irish had no wish for the word to go round that they were in the business of demolishing mosques – hitherto a Serb prerogative.

Since the Israelis had fired so many shells into Bradchit's minaret, they could probably have been asked to complete the job. Cracked and blasted, it stands eviscerated, steel tendons and wires dangling over the little village square, in full view of the Israeli Merkava tank which has tried so hard to destroy it. Abdul Hussein Shihab has good reason to know the tank's location. Not only did the Israeli gunners on the hilltop artillery compound above him kill his next-door neighbour, 80-year-old Zamzam Farhat, in 1996, but the land on which the tank is now positioned happens to belong to Mr Shihab himself.

"I have six parcels of land and only one is outside the Israeli occupied area," he says, a 67-year old tobacco farmer with no more tobacco to farm. "When I went to visit one of my bits of land between the village and the tank last month, they fired at me. Imagine, a farmer shot at for walking on his own land! But it is my land. I can't leave it because I was born



here, like all my grandfathers, and stayed through all the war. Property is a birthright."

A very damaged birthright, one might have added. Half the houses in Bradchit look as if a monster has nibbled away at their walls. Mr Shihab's daughter Khadija shows me a shell-hole converted into a window.

Bradchit's fate is to be on the very edge of Israel's occupation zone in southern Lebanon. Its villagers include some of Lebanon's most efficient guerrillas – two of the three mayors elected this year are Hezbollah officials – who have twice stormed their way up the hill above Mr Shihab's home and captured the Israeli compound (once filming the operation as the Israelis ran away). Israeli retaliation has been ferocious. At least 60 men and women have been killed around Bradchit, one of them an Irish UN soldier who died in the room above Mr Shihab's house in 1990, torn to pieces by an Israeli flesheater route as he slept in his bunk.

Bradchit is a scruffy village of fly-blown wall posters (most of them Hezbollah) and lines of tobacco leaves hung out to dry in the unforgiving sun. Perhaps 100 of its 1,600 inhabitants are Catholics, the remainder Shias. They attend each other's funerals and weddings and feast days but do not intermarry. "I had an aunt who married a Muslim," Angele Bassilah tells me as she pushes bright green tobacco leaves onto a steel rod to dry.

They share life and death in a kind of giant tobacco kebab. "It was a love match." And were their children Muslim or Christian, I ask cruelly. "Communist," she replies, and bursts into laughter.

Mr Shihab and his family say Bradchit got its name from a local prophet, Nabi Chit, who came down from the Bekaa to graze his sheep here in the Middle Ages. Angele Bassilah and her family – who claim their Italian ancestor arrived here from Jerusalem before the Crusades – say the village was founded by the third son of Adam who also, yes, came to graze his sheep here. Angele and her three sisters are in mourning for their cousin who has just died of cancer at the age of 35; all the Muslims have come to her home to pay their condolences.

Just up the road, I meet the two Hezbollah mayors, Ali Shehab and Ali Abdul Nabi, tall, neatly bearded men in their thirties. The government has forgotten Bradchit, they claim. It was the Hezbollah who built the clinic in which we are sitting and installed an electrical grid in several of the streets and repaired many of the houses (after, it should be added, the

Israeli forces provoked into their revenge attacks by Hezbollah assaults on the tank compound). "It is a special village," Ali Shehab adds. "It is so beautiful and spring is with its olive trees and springs."

But every village has its secrets. Three of its young men joined Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army militia, the very gunmen who sometimes fire into Bradchit with the Israelis. One of them was called Hussein Abdul Nabi and he was a big criminal. Ali Shehab says, "The second was called Ahmed Salami. We killed both of them. There is a third. I used to play in the streets of this village with him as a boy. Now he lives in Bint Jbeil with his wife, in the occupied zone. Soon he, too, is going to be killed."

ROBERT FISH



Pte Tom Duffy of Galway patrolling past the dangerous minaret Robert Fish

South Korea car strikers amass arms

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Ulsan

MOO Hyun, said. "If this round of arbitration fails we have no hope of further mediation."

The potentially deadly consequences of a confrontation were obvious yesterday. The strikers have complete control of the plant and have assembled a range of crude weapons and barricades. An array of scrap metal and 50 new Hyundai cars block the main gate, some of them loaded with tanks of oxygen. A large tank of petrol stands among them, and the strikers threaten to ignite the whole barricade if police force massed outside.

The government and the company insist the strike is illegal, and warrants have been issued for the arrest of 63 union leaders. The police are not expected to raid the plant while the talks are continuing, but last night the negotiators said time was running out. "We have requested the government to refrain from sending in the police while we are holding talks but this is for them to decide and we are not in a position to dictate this," the leader of the ruling-party delegation, No

early yesterday morning," said a striker named Song. "It may look like an uneven fight but even a worm will turn when it is trodden upon. I am prepared to fight until my last breath."

South Korean papers say 15,000 police are on standby to raid the plant, ranging from nervous conscripts to the notorious "white-skull force", elite riot police who bear the skull and crossbones on their helmets.

The police have been displaying their own hardware – a giant bulldozer and an armoured car supporting a tear-gas cannon.

Both sides engaged in psychological warfare yesterday, the strikers vowing at noisy rallies to remain defiant, and the police marching up in formation to the entrance of the plant, only to march away again a few hours later.

The potential for tragedy is further increased by the presence of several hundred children and wives who are camping out alongside their husbands.

Many of the women in the plant say they intend to be at the front of any resistance force as a further discouragement to a violent frontal assault.

Sybil 'all in doctor's head'

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

SYBIL WAS the most famous case of multiple personality on record, the subject of a book and a film that made the idea one of the hottest concepts in psychology in the 1970s. But, according to research released at the weekend, Sybil was just Sybil.

Dr Cornelie Wilbur, Sybil's psychiatrist, may have suggested the other personalities as an explanation for the woman's problems. Robert Rieber of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York told the American Psychological Association

Wilbur's head, not Sybil's. Dr Wilbur tells Ms Schreiber: "I said, 'Well, there's a personality who calls herself Peggy.' And I said, 'She is pretty assertive... she can do things you can't', and Sybil was very uh, obviously perturbed by this." According to Dr Rieber, Dr Wilbur used different names to describe aspects of Sybil's character.

Sybil wrote a letter to Dr Wilbur in which she disclaims having multiple personalities but Dr Wilbur ignored it. Dr Rieber said.

400MHz Ultimate PC™

The Time 400MHz UltimatePC™ system based on Intel's fastest Pentium® II processor comes with an incredible specification for just £1185 +VAT

Time 400-2 UltimatePC™

- Intel Pentium® II Processor 400MHz
- 128Mb SDRAM (PC100)
- 15" digital colour screen (17" optional extra)
- 8.4Gb UDMA-33 hard drive
- 8Mb AGP x2 ATI Rage Pro 3D graphics
- 56k Rockwell flash voice modem
- 64 3D PCI hardware wavetable sound
- 32 speed MAX CD-ROM drive
- PC-TV with Teletext and video capture
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- IBM Gold voice recognition
- Microsoft Windows 98
- FREE 2800 of extra preloaded software including SmarSuite 97, Freelance, GSP suite and more

All standard features including floppy drive, premium speakers, mouse, keyboard, all standard ports, Intel® 100MHz bus motherboard with 440BX chipset, ATX case.

400-2s Model: only £240 +VAT = £282 extra. As above but with DVD-ROM II drive, LS120 120Mb Super-floppy drive, Executive subwoofer speakers, new look General case and larger 10.1GB hard disk.

Product codes: 400 15" 128 17" 129; 400s 15" 134 17" 135



New Lower Price
£1185 Plus VAT
£1392.38 Inc VAT

400 MHz Processor
128 Mb SDRAM
2800 of Software

SMI AGP2 Graphics
PC-TV with teletext
2Gb Hard Disk

Pay Nothing Until August 1999
12 months Interest Free Credit
No Deposit No Payments
Until August 99
TIME - The award winning PC manufacturer

Computer Doctor July 1998
Computer Doctor March 1998
PC TV May 1998
Computer Doctor January 1998
Computer Doctor June 1998
PC Plus July 1998
WHAT PC? Aug 1998

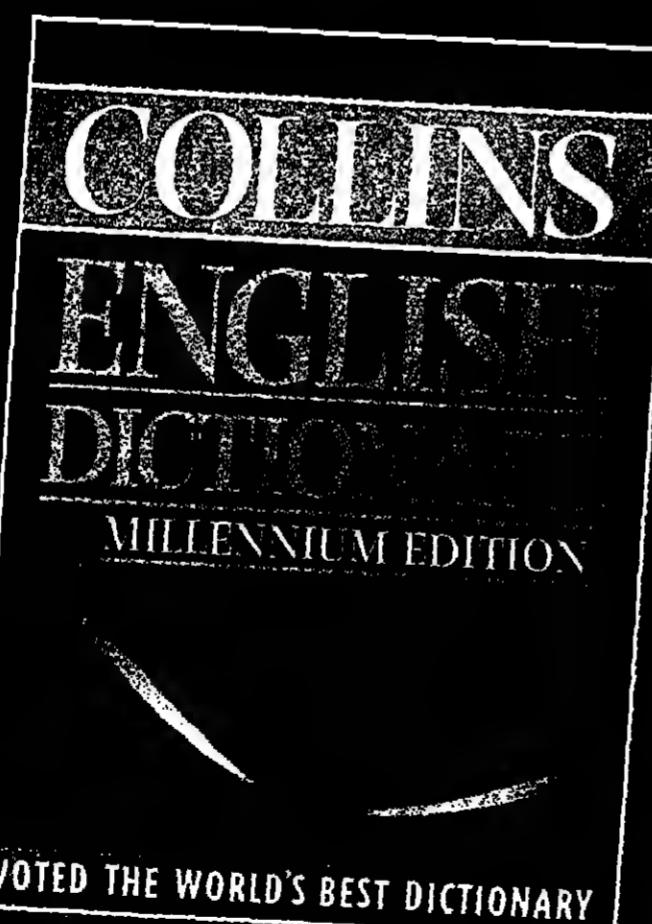
Freephone Time today Offer ends 22nd August

0800 771107

Direct Sales Lines Open: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 7pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday: 10am - 4pm
47 stores nationwide. For store details call 0800 316 2217. Volume/Business Sales 01282 777 555

THE PEOPLE'S DICTIONARY

A BRAND NEW
Dictionary for a new Millennium



- From affinity card to zero tolerance – over 16,000 new and updated entries
- From Andre Agassi to Emile Zola – over 18,500 encyclopedic entries
- Includes technical vocabulary on finance, sport, science and education – 196,000 definitions in all

At a special introductory price of Only £24.99!

AVAILABLE NOW
ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS
0161 307 4052 TO ORDER

© 1998 Collins Dictionaries Ltd. All rights reserved. ISBN 0 00 472070 9

TIME

We're on your side™

0% - 26%
5 Years

Freephone Time today Offer ends 22nd August

0800 771107

Direct Sales Lines Open: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 7pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday: 10am - 4pm

47 stores nationwide. For store details call 0800 316 2217. Volume/Business Sales 01282 777 555

TD8

Korea
rikers
arms

THE INDEPENDENT
Thursday 20 August 1998

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

13

BRIEFING

Two Allied Carpets directors quit

TWO DIRECTORS of Allied Carpets have resigned following the accounting errors that led to the suspension of the company's shares last month. David Pout (below), the finance director, and Steve Barber, retail director, are both leaving with immediate effect. The company would not comment on the level of compensation, although Mr Pout was on a one-year contract and was paid £135,000 last year.

The two directors appear to have taken responsibility for the accounting problem under which some stores had been booking carpet sales on order rather than when they had been fitted, affecting full year profits by £2m.

Bruce Wright, currently interim finance director at B&Q, will join Allied Carpets in a similar capacity. The company is expected to give more details with its annual results on 26 August.

Cliffe resigns in HSBC shake-up

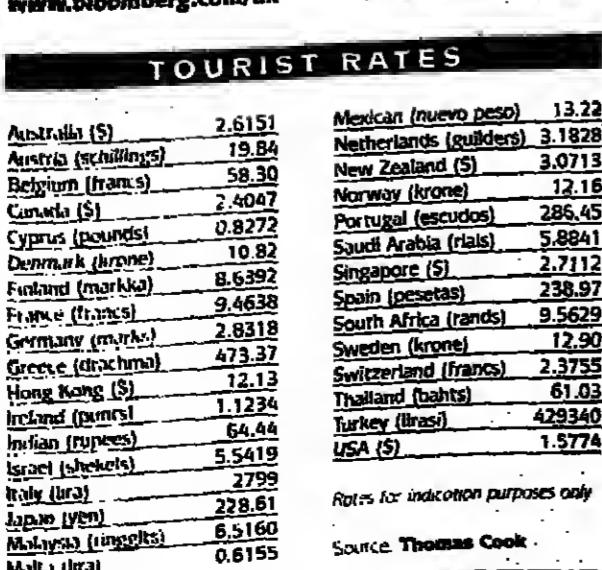
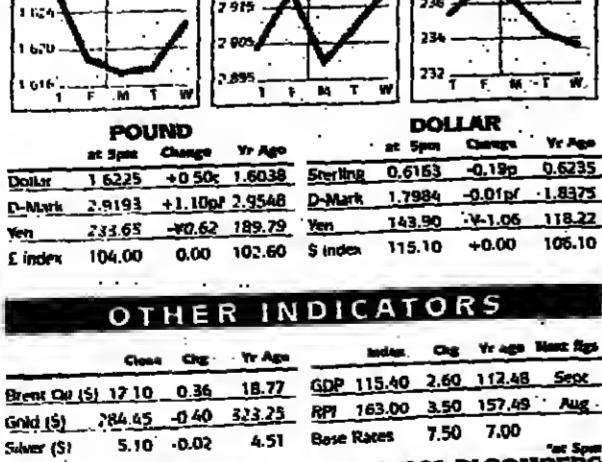
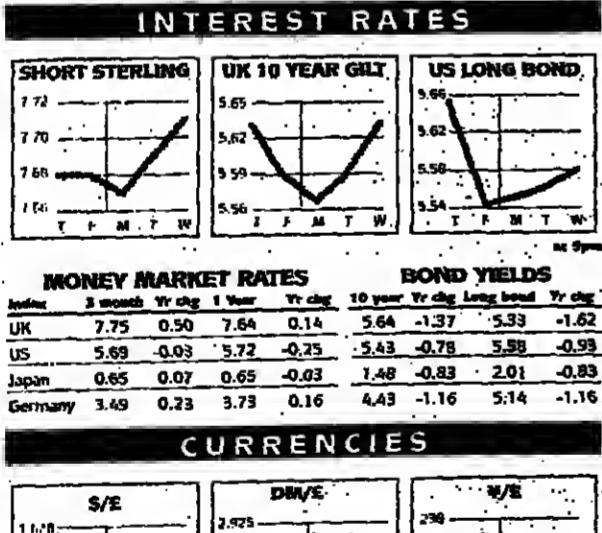
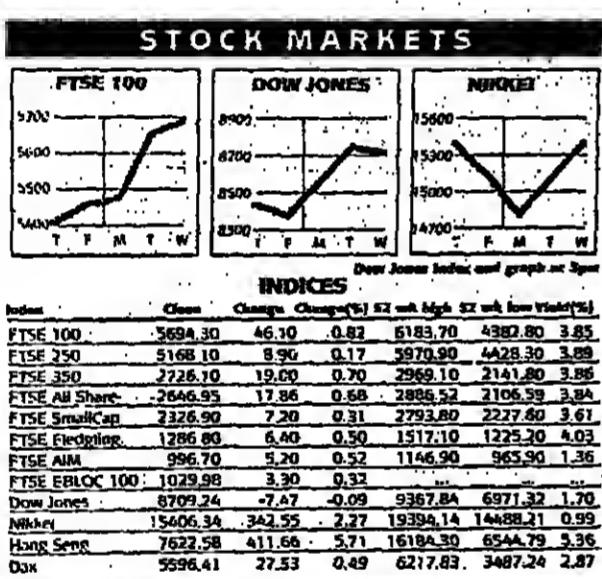
THE CONSTRUCTION of a new economics department within HSBC Securities produced another change at the top yesterday. Senior economist Mark Cliffe was reported to have resigned. He is the latest casualty caused by the merging of two economics departments formerly at HSBC Capital Markets and HSBC James Capel. Last month the group chief economist, Roger Bootle, announced he would be leaving shortly to set up his own consultancy. Keith Strooch, former chief economist at James Capel, has already moved to be head of international sales at HSBC Securities.

Bradford & Bingley boosts share

BRADFORD & BINGLEY. Britain's second-largest building society, increased its share of the UK mortgage market in the first half of the year the lender said yesterday.

Christopher Rodrigues, the chief executive, said the company had increased its mortgage book by £430m to £1.7bn in the first half. "We have a natural market share of around 4 per cent, but in the first six months we have punched above our weight and we are definitely increasing market share," he said.

Bradford & Bingley reported a 41 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £37.3m. Mr Rodrigues said the results reflected the company's commitment to mutuality.



BUSINESS

Boots loses £312m on Do It All

By NIGEL COPE

Associate City Editor

BOOTS YESTERDAY revealed that it will book a £312m exceptional loss on the sale of the struggling Do It All DIY business, which it sold yesterday for £8m.

The buyer is Focus Retail Group, an independent DIY retailer backed by Duke Street Capital, a venture capital fund.

Though Boots will remain guarantor on 29 of the stores' leases, the company said there was no danger of the remainder reverting to Boots if the company founders as Focus has acquired the holding company.

The deal marks the end of a painful period for Boots which

chairman. The deal was welcomed in the City and Boots shares rose 3p to 105p.

"It means all of the company's non-core activities have now gone. The management can now be more focused and the overall portfolio looks better," one said.

The deal makes Focus Britain's third largest DIY retailer. The company has around 10 per cent of the market after B&Q and Homebase - the two have combined sales of over £500m.

However, its prospects were immediately questioned by industry experts.

Clive Vaughan of Verdict, the retail consultants said: "It seems like a full price and a difficult management task to integrate the two businesses."

However, Focus marketing director Jim Lower said there were very few overlaps between the businesses as Focus is based mainly in the north east while Do It All's main strength is in the south.

Focus, which has 71 stores, plans to re-brand Do It All's 139 outlets as Focus/Do It All and to introduce more of a "lifestyle element" to the shops. It will add its Pet World format which is in 36 of its Focus stores and

is considering adding Craftwork centres which offer products for rag-rolling, stencilling and other modern decorating techniques.

Focus recorded profits of £4m on sales of £148m last year. Duke Street Capital, which controls 60 per cent of the company, is injecting a further £25m into the company to help fund the deal.

Do It All made an operating profit of £2.5m on sales of £337m. The company has struggled with a weak brand name and a poor store portfolio. It has also struggled against more powerful competitors which

had much larger market share. The sale by Boots, which includes the £312m goodwill write-off, means that it has now sold most of the businesses it acquired as part of the ill-fated Ward White acquisition 10 years ago.

It sold the Fads and Home-style DIY business to Alchemy, the venture capital group last year.

The only remaining Ward White business is Halfords, the car accessories business.

However, Boots said yesterday that Halfords was a core business and that there were no plans to sell it.

IMF's \$3.8bn lost defending rouble

By ANDREW GARFIELD

Financial Editor

THE RUSSIAN central bank chief, Sergei Dubinin, last night admitted that some \$3.8bn of the \$4.8bn (£3bn) advanced by the International Monetary Fund had been blown since 20 July in a futile attempt to shore up the rouble.

The admission, which underlines the increasing desperation of Russia's financial position, came as the Russians were forced to withdraw plans to restructure 278 billion rubles (£25bn) of short-term government debt in the face of well-legal threats from Western investment bankers.

These followed complaints that the proposals accompanying Monday's devaluation were grossly discriminatory to foreigners, who account for around 25 per cent of the existing stock of short-term government debt.

There were allegations yesterday that MICEX, the Moscow foreign exchange market, had been taking advantage

of the confusion by refusing to honour margin calls on futures contracts.

Foreign investors - mainly big investment banks and hedge funds - have been big players in the Gekko market because of the very high yields which enabled investors to more than double their money in a matter of months. But, as one trader admitted yesterday: "Western investors had factored in the risk of devaluation, but not devaluation and debt restructuring at the same time."

The CSFB warning highlights growing fears that the crisis could snowball, with catastrophic knock-on effects for other emerging markets. Russia's total sovereign debt, according to debt rating agency Fitch IBCA, is \$141bn, up \$1bn from the end of last year.

"In the past two weeks spreads on Brazilian Brady bonds have widened some 200 basis points due to Russian fallout," said Kasper Bartholdy at CSFB. "To refinance all its external debt at this extra cost would imply, for Brazil alone, a \$300m a year."

The Russian authorities together with Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan, the two institutions advising the Russians on the debt restructuring, were last night locked in meetings with the big Western investors.

As part of the latest IMF package agreed in July, Russia was to refinance part of its debt obligations through a \$2bn Eurobond issue this autumn.

But even if the present impasse can be resolved, the likelihood of getting such an issue away looks very slim.

Russians haggle in the street over currency as the growing crisis hits citizens

AP Wire

MEH NOTY

ПРОДАЖА

7-60

DM

4-50

DM

Bloomberg Television's "Eye on the Markets" (6am-9am) prepared you for the European trading day with economic forecasts > Business headlines > Analysis from experts in the City and recaps of all overnight trading in Asia and the US > Tune in to the "Eye on the Markets" and enjoy the view >www.bloomberg.com/uk > BE IN THE KNOW

Bloomberg TELEVISION

Care is taken to ensure that the information provided by Bloomberg and Financial Express for the independent is correct, but neither warrant, represent or guarantee the contents of the information, nor do they accept any responsibility for error, inaccuracy, omission or any inconsistency.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com

Key X-ex-dividend

Copies of the most recent management reports and scheme prospectus are available from fund manager.

Lord Blyth sheds albatross at last

IT HAS taken Lord Blyth, chairman of Boots, 10 years to get the Ward White albatross off his back. When that deal was done, the reasoning was that with Boots the Chemists threatening to go ex-growth, the company had to diversify. So for the princely sum of £900m, Lord Blyth acquired the peerless portfolio of Payless DIY (later merged with WH Smith's Do It All), AG Stanley (including Fads and Homestyle) and Halfords. That was it a disaster on a grand scale goes without saying. The housing boom turned into a bust and the brands revealed themselves as some of the weakest in their sectors.

Now Do It All has gone for £63m (minus the small matter of a £312m write off). AG Stanley has already been sold for £1. So only Halfords, which at most would be worth half the balance, remains. Along the way, there's been untold investment in the three brands. Quite a squandering of shareholders' money then.

Ironically, while the Ward White businesses were heading south at a rate of knots Boots proved itself more resilient than anyone could have imagined. Far from being eaten away by the supermarkets, it has powered ahead regardless. It has



OUTLOOK

consistently delivered margins of more than 10 per cent and accounts for 85 per cent of group profits.

It has even managed its own diversification - into travel insurance, home shopping and stores in Ireland, Holland and the Far East. Boots Healthcare International, maker of Nurofen, Strepsils and so on, is also prospering. At its most basic this is an argument for sticking to one's knitting, a lesson that WH Smith is now following with the sale of Waterstone's, Our Price and other periphery businesses.

What is not quite clear is how much of the credit should go to Lord Blyth. The plaudits might rather seem to belong to the management

team at Boots the Chemist. In one respect Lord Blyth has achieved his ambition for the company. If memory serves, his aim was to take Boots from the bottom of the second quartile of the Footsie to the top. In that regard he has succeeded. Boots currently lies 27th. How much of a role Lord Blyth played in that ascent is a matter of opinion.

system. The broker has a duty to his client to spot the trap and avoid it. But it is also indicative of a wider malaise - a system that seems not only to be wide open to abuse and manipulation but also generally fails to serve the needs of investors.

The stock exchange's inability to get to grips with these problems is becoming nothing short of a national disgrace. In the early months it was reasonable to blame it all on teething problems, but the time for that has long since past. The recent package of reforms including setting the trading day back half an hour and the synchronisation of trading hours with those of Liffe, seems not to have improved things one jot.

Quite apart from the constant appearance of these rogue prices and their tendency to penalise those least able to look after themselves, small retail investors - there is a much wider problem with SETs. This is that it is not much used by big institutional investors. Only 30 per cent of trade is passing through the new system with the rest conducted either of market completely or through the old quote driven system. Since there is no longer obligation or transparency in the old system, it means that jobbers are making money out of it as

never before. Investors know this, but they still seem to prefer being taken for a ride under the old to the vagaries of the new.

The solution to these problems is still far from clear. Certainly it would not seem practical now to abandon the new system on which a large sum of money has been invested, and return whole heartedly to the old. That in any case is not what institutional investors want. It was they who led the fight against powerful vested interest for a modern order driven system.

Lamentably, we seem to have ended up with the worst of both worlds. Just to repeat the statement, solutions are not easy to find. It is, however, the stock exchange's job to ensure an orderly and efficient market place, and if Gavin Casey, the present chief executive, can't find a way through, he should move over and let someone else have a go.

PowerGen still has ambitions

STOCK MARKET attention may be more on National Power right now, but these are also interesting times

for PowerGen. Speculation about a break-up bid for National Power has put its slightly smaller brother in the shade. But Ed Wallis, PowerGen's combative chairman, is back from holiday and itching to get going again.

The great "merger of equals" with Houston Industries of the US has collapsed. Even so, Ed has not altogether given up on his transatlantic ambitions. Meanwhile, there remains the small task of gaining regulatory approval for PowerGen's £1.9bn acquisition of East Midlands Electricity.

The mergers panel met last week to consider the deal and pass its recommendation onto the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson. PowerGen is confident the decision will go the right way - so much so that it has already paid Dominion Resources its money. Even with following wind, it is unlikely Mr Mandelson will set out his position before the middle of next month. Then it will depend, critically, on how much generating capacity Ed is prepared to sacrifice in return for being allowed to integrate vertically with a wires and supply business.

If the price demanded by Mr Mandelson and the regulators is too high, then PowerGen could be in a pickle. Its expansion strategy on both sides of the Atlantic could be in trouble.

One option is for PowerGen to find another merger partner in the US. The drawback is that many of the potential brides it is eyeing up also own UK RECs. Then again PowerGen could go for the consolidation of a straight takeover of a smaller US utility. But that route is fraught with difficulties too, given the inflated prices that prevail in the American energy sector and the regulatory uncertainties which surround it.

There is, of course, one other scenario - which is that PowerGen is the real takeover target and Nat Power is the diversionary tactic. John Devaney, lately of Energy Group and rumoured to be lining up a bid for Nat Power, is known to regard PowerGen as the more vulnerable of the two generators.

He also shares something in common with Ed Wallis - a love of yachts. John's is in the Med, navigating the Corsican coast. Ed's is named Purple Haze, after the late Jimi Hendrix. We should, perhaps, stand by for some hot licks come the autumn.

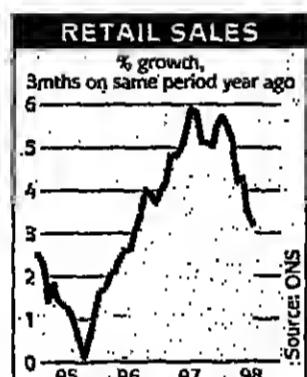
Slowing retail sales add to downturn fears

By STEVE LEVINSON

RETAIL SALES growth is continuing to slow despite a bounce back in July after a poor month in June. Government figures out yesterday showed an annual rate of growth of 3.2 per cent in the three months to July, the slowest since August 1996.

Other figures showed a collapse in business investment, down 5.5 per cent in the second quarter and only 1.5 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The data confirm that an economic slowdown is under way. Analysts said the figures were unlikely to alter interest-rate prospects as they did not support the case for either a rise or fall in rates.



Cup. In June sales fell by 1.5 per cent. The recovery in July was helped by discounting, and sales of clothing and footwear showed the sharpest rise, growing 6 per cent in July after a 9.4 per cent fall in June.

The erratic picture of recent months has not obscured the underlying trend which, says the Office for National Statistics, "still suggests a slowdown".

The best guide is the change in the latest three months compared with the same period a year earlier. This shows retail sales growth falling from 5.9 per cent last summer as consumers spent windfalls from converting building societies to 3.2 per cent now. The rate has fallen continuously this year.

Geoffrey Dicks, economist at Greenwich NatWest, said little should be read into the July recovery, which was due to aggressive pricing in sales.

The figures on business investment add to the picture of a slowdown. The sharpest falls were in investment by public corporations and utilities. Investment spending is always lumpy and too much should not be read into one quarter's figures.

But recent surveys from the CBI and British Chambers of Commerce have warned of a sharp decline in investment intentions. Compared with a year ago, business investment is up by just 1.5 per cent - the slowest growth rate since the fourth quarter of 1995.

Liberty cuts 100 jobs as sales figures fall



LIBERTY, the troubled London department store group, is cutting nearly 100 jobs in an attempt to reduce costs and improve financial performance.

Philip Bowman, the company's new chairman, also warned that it could be five years before shareholders achieve a reasonable return on their investment.

The gloomy prognosis was delivered to shareholders at a downbeat annual meeting in London yesterday. Mr Bowman also gave an update on current trading showing that sales had fallen by 1 per cent in the six months to August.

The company has stocks equivalent to 23 weeks of sales. The effect of markdowns on these ranges will affect the group's first-half results, the chairman said.

SIEMENS

SEMINAR 1

Implementing a Small Business Server

Ideal for smaller businesses with limited IT experience, this interactive seminar shows how to streamline processes, modernise communications and compete online with larger organisations. It focuses on the latest Microsoft products running on a Siemens Niosoft PRIMERGY server with Intel® Pentium® II processor. Includes briefings on a new generation of business software embracing electronic commerce, integrated telephony and business management.

SEMINAR 2

Reducing the Total Cost of Ownership

Ideal for IT Managers and strategic decision makers, "Total Cost of Ownership" is an essential seminar for companies considering the implementation of networked PC solutions. Will this paradigm shift in distributed computing deliver real cost savings? Can new and legacy hardware be successfully integrated using this technology? How can such installations be managed effectively? This seminar examines the experience of companies who have already gone down this path.

SEMINAR 3

Maximising Sales through Mobile Computing

Ideal for IT Managers, IT Directors and Sales Professionals, "Maximising Mobile Computing" focuses on the issues of remote access and security for teleworkers and mobile sales forces. Featuring demonstrations of integrated solutions which combine state-of-the-art Siemens mobile phones and notebooks and a round up of the latest sales support tools this is a seminar which no one with people on the road should miss.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME	
LOCATION	DATE
Scotland	1st September 1998
Midlands	2nd September 1998
South	3rd September 1998



To book your place... 0800 125555
User Centred Computing

Siemens Enterprise & Personal Computing, Pyramid House, Solartron Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7QJ www.sni-epc.co.uk

MAIN MOVERS																							
RISES								FALLS															
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES 0.0000																							
RANKS 1.8955																							
TRANSPORT 0.0000																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							
MARKET LEADERS																							
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm																							
FTSE 100 INDEX																							

Footsie advances but oil groups suffer

EQUITIES RETAINED their new summer-time glow. Tuesday's heroic surge should have been followed by at least a gentle bout of consolidation. Yet Footsie, although closing below it day's high, managed a 4.61 point gain to 5,694.3.

But for Enterprise Oil and Lasmco it was another downbeat session, bringing even closer the possibility they will be relegated from Footsie. If they are removed it will leave only the giants, British Petroleum and Shell, to represent the oil industry in the daily Footsie calculation.

Footsie's next composition meeting is due next month. On present form Lasmco is a sure fire casualty and Enterprise has little room for manoeuvre. Others fighting the drop include Smiths Industries and the last recruit the RMC building materials group.

Smiths was recently the subject of some rogue order-driven trades. It pointed out that had they occurred on the Footsie reckoning day its place in the index would have been lost.

Enterprise was one of the worst performing Footsie constituents

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

falling 12p to 435p; Lasmco lost 3p to 165p. The oil industry is suffering from the collapse in bulk oil prices which could fall even more if, as some suspect, the Russians step up production as part of its bid to earn much needed revenue.

British Airways, on the promise

it would defuse the Eurocrats over its London airports slots, if domestic regulators offered support, rose 30p to 518p. The airline wants to sell 267 Heathrow and Gatwick slots but Brussels wants to give them away. UK regulators favour a sale.

Vodafone, making investment presentations, dialled a 4.5% gain to 860p and HSBC, as the Hong Kong market reaped the benefit of more Government support, rose 46p to 1,369p.

At one time Footsie was up 64.6. It was buoyed by Hong Kong's advance, a firm display in Tokyo and New York's overnight performance.

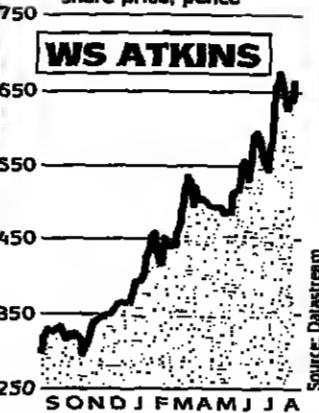
The mid-cap index edged ahead and even the small cap, which had looked in terminal decline, managed to record a modest gain.

Rentokil, off 14p, at 365p, was hit by its unexpected failure to keep up its 20 per cent growth rate and National Power fell 21p to 550p as bid hopes faded. But PowerGen, on switching out of NEF hardened 31p to 780p.

Computer shares were in demand, thanks to the Micro Focus price leap. Misys rose 110p to 2,730p and Sage 67.5p to 1,432.5p. Micro Focus added 17.5p to 480p.

The cream came off milk shares. Milk Marque, the industry regulator, is set to make a City presentation next week. Before then it is likely to slash wholesale milk prices, eroding the margins of the

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Bloomberg

view. It expects profits of £34.5m this year and £37.7m next.

Beers were weak after Deutsche Morgan Grenfell took a distinctly sober view of the industry. Even so Bass, one to attract a DDM downgrade, rose 35p to 975p. Whitbread, another target, fell 2p to 838p.

BAT Industries shaded to 680.5p. Panmure Gordon is positive, believing the shares have enough

puff to reach 800p. It is encouraged following the reshaping and suggests the shares have what amounts to a "junk bond" rating.

Imperial Tobacco was hit by Charhouse Tilney taking the shares off its buy list, falling 23p to 526.5p.

Imperial Chemical Industries, the subject of an early morning rogue trade, ended little changed at 800p although a profit warning by its German rival, Hoechst, ruffled sentiment. Zeneca, ICI's former subsidiary, improved 70p to 2,410p as Roche take over speculation confirmed.

Billion, the mining group, hardened to 126.5p. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson upgraded its net income forecasts on the back of currency considerations. The investment

house is still thought to have up to 40 million shares on its books, currently showing a loss of £160m. It took 101 million shares from one of Billion's major shareholders, a South African mutual called Sanlam. It has, it is thought, placed 60 million.

Henlys, battling for Dennis, shaded 4p to 501p as Volvo lifted its stake to 6.82 per cent.

Holiday shares were ruffed by planned capacity cut backs next month. Airtours fell 15.5p to 391.5p and First Choice 6p to 123.5p. Thomson lost 2.5p to 155p.

Alexanders, the garage group, reversed as bid talks ended. The voting shares fell 4.5p to 130p and non-voters 4.5p to 125p.

But the prospect of bid action at Brooke Industrial, an engineer, prompted a 24p advance to 130p.

Petra Diamond resisted a bear raid, ending 1p higher at 117p although its warrants dropped 7.5p to 87.5p. Waverley Mining, where bid talks have been abandoned, fell 0.5p to 7.5p.

SEAG VOLUME: 804.2m
SEAG TRADES: 57,712
GILTS INDEX: WS Atkins

ANOTHER BUY note on John Lusty, the food group. Collins Stewart expects profits to climb from £1.8m to £3.6m this year and then reach £4.2m.

The note describes the company as "a highly cash generative, defensive growth stock which is well placed to take advantage of the fragmented and lucrative specialist food market". The shares, at 10p, trade at a 50 per cent discount to the market and 40 per cent to its nearest competitor, WT Foods.

MINMET, traded on the Irish exploration market, firmed 0.75p to 9p.

Its 78 per cent-owned Credition Minerals (CM) subsidiary could be edging nearer to a Devvo gold strike: a survey indicates a structure "that could lead to the discovery of further high-grade gold" in an area known as the Credition Trough. A new drilling programme is to be carried out. CM is traded on the fringe Oxfex at 21.5p.

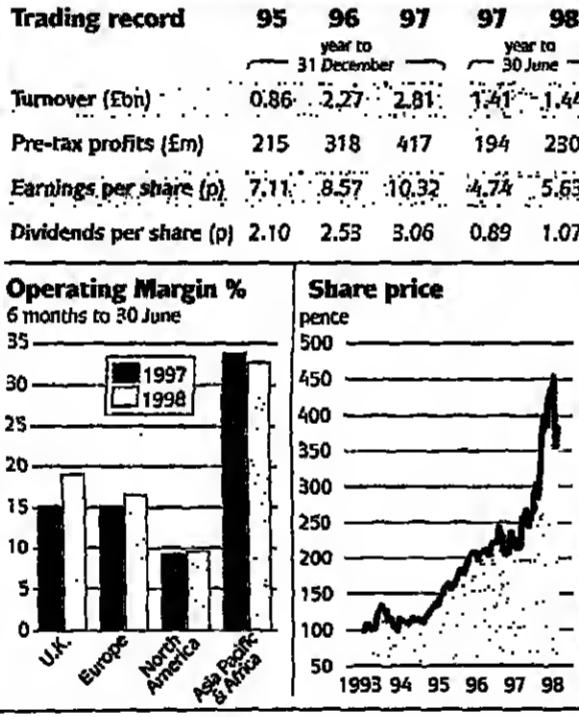
Rentokil finally slips up on the percentage play

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

RENTOKIL: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £10.5bn, share price 365p (+1.9%)



The shares have had a pretty torrid time of late, as the gloom surrounding the engineering sector dragged them down from a year's high of 304.5p.

They are now trading on just nine times 1998 forecast earnings of around £65m. On such a large discount to the market, they are certainly worth a punt.

Game's plan is short of value

GAME, the computer games retailer, is a well-run business, but since it came to the market in June its shares have had all the appeal of a video nasty. Fleated at 200p, they jumped to 230p in their first day but have been careering downhill ever since.

Yesterday they shed another 3p to 176p in spite of maiden full-year results which showed a jump in pre-tax profits from £46.00m to £72.00m.

This fall is less about the business itself and owes more to the hammering second-line stocks have been taking. Electronics Boutique, Game's main rival, has also suffered, and the high street is not exactly flavour of the month with investors.

Game's figures certainly look encouraging though. Like-for-like sales soared by 46 per cent during the year, boosted by Sony Playstation and the launch of the rival Nintendo 64 games console at the beginning of 1997.

In current trading same-store sales are still up by 11 per cent and the new 120-bit Sega machine is due out later this year or early next.

Store openings are continuing with nine added in the year to take the total to 66. Game's plan is still to have 120 by May 2001.

On current year forecasts of £10m the shares trade on a forward rating of 19. That looks a bit high even after recent weakness. There's better value elsewhere in the retail sector

elsewhere in the UK.

With businesses ranging from Sudan to China, the company is able to ride the peaks and troughs of different cycles, including the Asian roller-coaster.

Similarly, Weir's strategy of

supplying its pumps and valves to "completely" different industries, from the naval sector to oil via power generation, should guarantee a reasonably stable order flow and avoid it becoming too reliant on one fall in turnover.

And there is more: the group expects orders to bounce to a record level in the second half thanks to a couple of submarine contracts from the Ministry of Defence. Factor in Weir's bullish noises on acquisitions, and yesterday's 5p jump in the shares to 213p looks entirely justified.

Can the good times last?

The answer is yes. For a start Weir's geographical spread should protect it from any further

economic downturn in the UK. With businesses ranging from Sudan to China, the company is able to ride the peaks and troughs of different cycles, including the Asian roller-coaster.

Similarly, Weir's strategy of

supplying its pumps and valves to "completely" different industries, from the naval sector to oil via power generation, should guarantee a reasonably stable order flow and avoid it becoming too reliant on one fall in turnover.

And there is more: the group

expects orders to bounce to a record level in the second half

thanks to a couple of submarine contracts from the Ministry of Defence. Factor in Weir's bullish

noises on acquisitions, and

yesterday's 5p jump in the

shares to 213p looks entirely

justified.

Given its size, however, Weir

will find suitable deals a lot

harder to come by. And the sus-

picion remains that meeting the

earnings target will be more

about questionable accounting

politics - Rentokil has decided

not to write off goodwill on ac-

quisitions against profits - than

true growth.

Rentokil shares slipped 14p

to 365p yesterday and are down

20 per cent from their June

high. But they still trade on a

chunky multiple of almost 30

times forecast full-year earnings.

Given the uncertainty over Rentokil's future growth, the shares are high enough.

IN BRIEF

Leighton takes up Asda options

ALLAN LEIGHTON, the chief executive of Asda, has exercised his options under the executive share option scheme and the long-term incentive plan, buying 773,390 Asda shares at an average option price of 84p and selling the same number of shares at 185.25p a share. Mr Leighton's total holding of Asda shares is now 89,902, the company said.

Fall at Rosebys

ROSEBYS, the furniture retailer, added to the high street gloom, reporting a 5 per cent fall in same-store sales in current trading. The figure compares with a 20 per cent increase at the same time last year.

Although Rosebys' shares fell 7p to 156.5p, the company confirmed plans to increase its store portfolio from 450 to 510 units in its Rosebys, Knightsgates and Bensons Beds formats.

428m train order

NATIONAL EXPRESS unveiled a 248m order for 20 new diesel trains for Central Trains. The rolling stock is due for delivery by June 2000.

The trains will be 100-mph Turbostar diesels to be built by Adtranz in Derby and leased through Porterbrook Leasing Company. National Express has 123 new trains on order worth about 225m.

This fall is less about the business itself and owes more to the hammering second-line stocks have been taking. Electronics Boutique, Game's main rival, has also suffered, and the high street is not exactly flavour of the month with investors.

Game's figures certainly look encouraging though. Like-for-like sales soared by 46 per cent during the year, boosted by Sony Playstation and the launch of the rival Nintendo 64 games console at the beginning of 1997.

In current trading same-store sales are still up by 11 per cent and the new 120-bit Sega machine is due out later this year or early next.

Store openings are continuing with nine added in the year to take the total to 66. Game's plan is still to have 120 by May 2001.

On current year forecasts of £10m the shares trade on a forward rating of 19. That looks a bit high even after recent weakness. There's better value elsewhere in the retail sector

elsewhere in the UK.

With businesses ranging from

Sudan to China, the company is able to ride the peaks and troughs of different cycles, including the Asian roller-coaster.

Similarly, Weir's strategy of

supplying its pumps and valves to "completely" different industries, from the naval sector to oil via power generation, should guarantee a reasonably stable order flow and avoid it becoming too reliant on one fall in turnover.

And there is more: the group

expects orders to bounce to a record level in the second half

thanks to a couple of submarine contracts from the Ministry of Defence. Factor in Weir's bullish

noises on acquisitions, and

yesterday's 5p jump in the

shares to 213p looks entirely

justified.

Given its size, however, Weir

will find suitable deals a lot

harder to come by. And the sus-

picion remains that meeting the

earnings target will be more

SPORT

Cricket: Batting options must be carefully considered against Sri Lanka for today's Triangular final at Lord's

England adjust to tactical advances

TO PINCH hit or not to pinch hit? That is the question facing both England and Sri Lanka in today's final of the Emirates Triangular Tournament at Lord's. So far, the tactic, used to maximise scoring in the first 15 overs when fielding restrictions are in place, has not been a rampant success. Unless a change in fortune is due, the outcome of the match could rest upon which team best utilises the middle and end overs, rather than those at the beginning.

One-day cricket is a game that is constantly evolving. What works well for a few years suddenly becomes clichéd, as players become wise to the methods employed. For that reason, being a one-trick wonder has a limited shelf life and, having reinvented one-day batting in the last World Cup, Sri Lanka may have difficulty in reining back.

The key, as to most things these days, is flexibility, especially in England where the pitches and the white ball offer the new-ball bowlers extra movement. According to Sri Lanka, the ball being used is too hard. If it is, the extra hardness should suit their hitters more, a suggestion borne out by the fact that each total in the competition to date has exceeded 300.

The evidence proving the folly of pinch hitting in Blighty; if not categorical, is certainly persuasive. In the six innings so far played in this tournament, the scores after 15 overs have been 102-3, 41-1, 27-2, 57-1, 76-3, and 73-2. Apart from Nick Knight, who scored a high-quality 74 on Tuesday in the match England lost to South Africa, none of the openers the tournament has passed 36.

As used to be the case, the bulk of the scoring in all three games has come from those batting from No 3 to No 5 in the order with Graeme Hick and Alec Stewart doing the bulk of the damage the last time these two sides met. Unless the Sri Lanka openers, Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluvaritharan, can overcome the new ball, expect Aravinda de Silva and Arjuna Ranatunga to return the compliment.

If the instinct to hit early on is resisted, the main skirmish for control will take place in the middle overs. With the increase in gaps decreasing the risks needed to be taken by batsmen, fielding will be vital during this period. Dropped catches, or anything more than the odd fumble, could cost the offending side dear. It is during this phase of the game



DEREK PRINGLE

that England could make things difficult for Sri Lanka, especially if Alan Mullally and Robert Croft continue to apply the squeeze that has followed the timely incisions made by Darren Gough with the new ball.

Ever since his show-stealing performance at Headingley in the final Test, Gough has bowled superbly well. With him offering the pace and Peter Martin the outswing, Sri Lanka's batsmen should not be able to take liberties lightly.

Indeed, the home side's sole cause for concern, as it has been for most of the summer, will be the weakness of their tail. Starting with the former one-day captain, Adam Hollioake, England's lower-middle order has twice collapsed in a heap. Such fragility – possibly the consequence of playing too many specialist bowlers – is sure to affect the top order, who must now be more cautious, and therefore more inhibited, than they otherwise might.

Hollioake's lack of form poses another dilemma. As Stewart's understudy as captain, the selectors – they will probably want him to captain England in Bangladesh while Stewart lands with the Ashes squad in Australia – need him to be in the side and playing well. So far with both bat and ball, he has been anonymous at best, and he should really be replaced for today's match by Matthew Fleming, had the Kent man not been sent back to his county.

Alternatively, as Hollioake has bowled just seven overs in two matches, England could drop Alastair Brown down the order and open instead with Michael Atherton. So far the Lancashire opener, along with the economical Angus Fraser, has experienced something of a busman's holiday. Perhaps it is time for at least one of them to don their blue pyjamas.

With Darren Gough offering pace and Peter Martin outswing, Sri Lanka's batsmen should not take liberties lightly

Darren Gough

A captain's dream, Gough has the pace and belief to get his side a wicket at any stage of the game. So far though, it has been his new ball bowling, with the bowler-friendly white balls, that has caught the eye. Thought to swing more than their red counterparts, Gough has twice used them to take important early wickets. More of the same today will surely give England the advantage.

Graeme Hick

Hick's form in the series so far has been commanding. A conventional batsman, in that he doesn't indulge in reverse sweeps and the like, his fine one-day record owes much to the middle-order position he occupies. When he comes in, the fields are invariably back and runs easy to pick up. Even so, you need a broad range of stroke to work the ball around and Sri Lanka may try to pressure him more when he first comes in, by keeping men up saving the single.



Muttiah Muralitharan

The off-spinner with the rubber wrist and the permanently locked elbow is happily known as a freak of nature. Unlike Gough, his role will be to bottle up the middle overs with his big, turning off-breaks. With 130 one-day wickets, he is easily Sri Lanka's most effective bowler and it will be interesting to see how England's batsmen cope with him should they need to score at over five runs an over.

Aravinda de Silva

With the middle-order proving to be vitally important in English conditions, De Silva will surely have a large bearing on today's match. A big occasion player, he has so far been ominously quiet and England may find themselves on the receiving end of a major innings. Almost 33, his 240 one-day internationals may be catching up with him, though an ability to pull balls barely short of a length makes him one of the most difficult batsmen in world cricket to bowl at.

Westwood aims to loosen Monty's grip

THE SEASON'S final major, glory's last chance," was the way last week's 60th USPGA Championship was billed on television in America. Mark O'Meara, with a double portion, Lee Janzen and Vijay Singh having scooped up the 1998's quota of glory, it is back to the day job. There are still plenty of dollops of dosh to be handed out, not least at the K Club on Sunday.

Just west of Dublin, along the Irish equivalent of the M4, the club is the pride and joy of Dr Michael Smurfit, of the Jefferson Smurfit Group, and features a course designed by Arnold Palmer. It is a frontrunner to stage the Ryder Cup when it comes to Ireland in 2005 and hosting the European Open and putting up a purse of £1.25m should help their cause.

The prize fund, a record for the European Tour outside the Open with a first cheque of £208,300, should also boost the claims of those involved in the race for the No 1 spot on the money list. Also known as the Order of Merit and, to the commercially aware, the Volvo Ranking, the actual prize at stake is the Vardon Trophy and has sat for

the last five years on the sideboard of Colin Montgomerie's living room.

Lee Westwood, with three victories, currently heads the money list by £122,000 from Darren Clarke, with Montgomerie a further £30,000 behind in third. Someone else could jump into contention by winning the huge pot on offer this week, although a win for the visiting Payne Stewart would not upset Clarke if he cannot win. For most of the season, no one had their sights on the money title, but that has changed now the majors have come and gone.

"It would be daft not to have a real go now," said Westwood. The leading three all finally rejected initial thoughts of staying on in America after the USPGA for the International and the World Series tournaments and have effectively cleared their schedules for the run-in. The next seven weeks could be decisive but there is then a gap until the season's finale at Montecastillo in Spain at the end of October.

"It is leading us to an exciting finish and it would be great to go to the Volvo Masters with four or five guys in with a chance as opposed to Monty dominating all the time,"

Andy Farrell, in Co Kildare, looks at the race to be Europe's best as the big guns set their sights on the season's run-in

Clarke said. "Monty has been there before and we all know what he is capable of if he turns on the style. He will be the guy to push whoever is leading down the stretch."

The Scot is considered the man to beat, with Westwood adding: "I don't have a figure in mind that I need to get to – just £1 more than Monty will do me." But Mont-

gomerie, who set majors rather than a sixth successive Vardon Trophy as his goal at the start of the year, is still not publicly leading the race. "That's been done," he said. "Hopefully I've nothing more to prove in Europe."

"I tend to take more notice of my position in the world rankings than the European rankings." Unfortu-

nately, that does not make pleasant reading: down from a career high of second two years ago to seventh. "That's going in the wrong direction," he conceded.

His collapse at the USPGA, when he was lying second after 36 holes, to finish 44th, has prompted action, however. "My long game was never so bad," he said. "You can't aim at the pin when you don't know whether the ball is going right or left."

As soon as Montgomerie left the course on Sunday, he phoned his old coach, Bill Ferguson. The pair have not worked together since Monty

missed the cut in the Open and the USPGA in 1996, apart from a brief "fix" at the Ryder Cup last year. "That seemed to work and hopefully we can work together on a more permanent basis," Montgomerie said.

The reasons for the split in the first place were never obvious, least of all to Ferguson, who first taught Montgomerie to play the game as a child in Yorkshire. But the results were swift. Bill spotted the problem right away. I'm not saying it's perfect, but it is a hell of a lot better than it was and I'm excited about playing with a fade again. A fade is the only safe, risk-free way of golf at this level, especially when it is your job. As the saying goes, you can talk to a fade but a hook doesn't listen."

It was a hooked tee shot that cost Montgomerie victory in a play-off for the Irish Open last month, a tournament where he had stated that he was in no need of a coach. His experiences since, which included another missed cut at the Open, have persuaded him otherwise. "Although it worked OK, then, it was still fragile. Now, it's getting more solid."

Down at the other end of the



Montgomerie: No 1 for five years

EUROPEAN ORDER OF MERIT		
THE RACE AT THE TOP		
Events	Money	
1 Lee Westwood (Eng) 12	£472,223	
2 Darren Clarke (N Ire) 12	£42,057	
3 Colin Montgomerie (Sco) 10	£386,759	
4 Ernie Els (SA) 8	£378,005	
5 Thomas Bjørn (Den) 14	£253,543	
6 Jose María Olazábal (Sp) 13	£353,306	
7 Patrik Sjöland (Swe) 18	£260,435	
8 Stephen Leaney (Aus) 15	£249,250	
9 Andrew Coltart (Sco) 17		
THE RAT RACE AT THE BOTTOM		
10 Stephen Allan (Aus) 16	£245,339	
11 David Carter (Eng) 18	£233,055	
12 Peter Baker (Eng) 16	£216,129	
13 Ian Woosnam (Wales) 11	£212,651	
14 Gary Orr (Sco) 19	£190,391	
15 David Howell (Eng) 19	£184,550	
Final player to retain his card last year		
116 Fabrice Tarraud (Fr) 18	£35,932	
235 Justin Rose (Eng) 2	£0	
Final player to retain his card last year	27	£50,564

money list. Justin Rose plays his third tournament as a professional. He is still looking to make his first cut and has only four other events in which to try and earn his Tour card, something that will take in the region of £5,000.

County Championship: Title chasers frustrated by Nottinghamshire as Killeen puts Lancashire under pressure

Surrey held at bay by Read

BY JON CULLEY
at Trent Bridge

Nottinghamshire v Surrey

THE YEAR is shaping into a momentous one indeed for Alec Stewart, who will lead England into the final of the Emirates Triangular Tournament at Lord's today cheered by the knowledge that his county is edging closer to a first Championship in 27 years.

In Stewart's absence here yesterday, the current leaders began a critical sequence of three matches away from The Oval by emphatically taking the upper hand against Nottinghamshire, where their prospects of making short work of the home side were seriously inconvenienced only late in the day by a doughty half-century from the England A wicket-keeper, Chris Read.

Once Benjamin tired, there was always the reliable Martin Bicknell to keep up the momentum. After fuming on 80 for 5, Nottinghamshire lost Paul Franks and Graham Archer, both bowled by Butcher at second slip, to be 112 for 7.

By now the match was looking embarrassingly one-sided but at last Read injected some fight into the batting.

The 20-year-old, who left Gloucestershire to take his chance at Trent Bridge, is no mean strokeplayer; whom many expect to graduate to the senior international ranks provided his glovework develops. His unbeaten 66, spanning two and a half hours and 117 balls with 10 boundaries, underpinned the addition of 101 runs for the last three wickets with Paul Strang and Andy Orman chipping in with valuable support.

Going in at 43 for 5 after choosing to bat, the Pakistani all-rounder, Lancashire's captain hit a season's best 68 then took the first three Durham wickets.

Things looked bleak for

Durham at 35 for 3 in reply to

196, especially as the former Lancashire player Nick Speak had to be helped off with a knee injury after taking a diving catch. But Jon Lewis and Paul Collingwood stopped the

beaten to bat first in the hope that, by the fourth innings, conditions might suit Saqlain and his leg-spinning teammate, Ian Salisbury. Instead, Butcher backed his seam attack to make the pitch work in his favour.

For the most part, a positive decision paid a worthwhile dividend. Joey Benjamin produced a prolonged opening spell that rocked the home side back on their heels at 65 for 5. With the pitch offering uneven bounce and Nottinghamshire's batsmen deficient in getting into line, Benjamin's first 10 overs yielded the wickets of Guy Walton, Usman Afzaal and Paul Johnson, all caught behind.

Once Benjamin tired, there was always the reliable Martin Bicknell to keep up the momentum. After fuming on 80 for 5, Nottinghamshire lost Paul Franks and Graham Archer, both bowled by Butcher at second slip, to be 112 for 7.

By now the match was looking embarrassingly one-sided but at last Read injected some fight into the batting.

The 20-year-old, who left Gloucestershire to take his chance at Trent Bridge, is no mean strokeplayer; whom many expect to graduate to the senior international ranks provided his glovework develops. His unbeaten 66, spanning two and a half hours and 117 balls with 10 boundaries, underpinned the addition of 101 runs for the last three wickets with Paul Strang and Andy Orman chipping in with valuable support.

Going in at 43 for 5 after choosing to bat, the Pakistani all-rounder, Lancashire's captain hit a season's best 68 then took the first three Durham wickets.

Things looked bleak for

Durham at 35 for 3 in reply to

196, especially as the former Lancashire player Nick Speak had to be helped off with a knee injury after taking a diving catch. But Jon Lewis and Paul Collingwood stopped the

beaten to bat first in the hope that, by the fourth innings, conditions might suit Saqlain and his leg-spinning teammate, Ian Salisbury. Instead, Butcher backed his seam attack to make the pitch work in his favour.

For the most part, a positive

decision paid a worthwhile

dividend. Joey Benjamin pro-

duced a prolonged opening

spell that rocked the home side

back on their heels at 65 for 5.

With the pitch offering uneven

bounce and Nottinghamshire's

batsmen deficient in get-

ting into line, Benjamin's first

10 overs yielded the wickets of

Guy Walton, Usman Afzaal and Paul

Johnson, all caught behind.

Once Benjamin tired, there

was always the reliable Martin

Bicknell to keep up the

momentum. After fuming on

80 for 5, Nottinghamshire lost

Paul Franks and Graham Archer,

both bowled by Butcher at

second slip, to be 112 for 7.

By now the match was look-

ing embarrassingly one-sided

but at last Read injected some

fight into the batting.

The 20-year-old, who left

Gloucestershire to take his

chance at Trent Bridge, is no

mean strokeplayer; whom many

expect to graduate to the senior

international ranks provided

his glovework develops. His

unbeaten 66, spanning two and

a half hours and 117 balls with

10 boundaries, underpinned the

addition of 101 runs for the

last three wickets with Paul

Strang and Andy Orman chipping

in with valuable support.

Going in at 43 for 5 after

choosing to bat, the Pakistani

all-rounder, Lancashire's cap-

tain hit a season's best 68 then

took the first three Durham

wickets.

Things looked bleak for

Durham at 35 for 3 in reply to

196, especially as the former

Lancashire player Nick Speak

had to be helped off with a

knee injury after taking a

diving catch. But Jon Lewis and

Paul Collingwood stopped the

beaten to bat first in the hope that, by the fourth innings, conditions might suit Saqlain and his leg-spinning teammate, Ian Salisbury. Instead, Butcher backed his seam attack to make the pitch work in his favour.

For the most part, a positive

decision paid a worthwhile

dividend. Joey Benjamin pro-

duced a prolonged opening

spell that rocked the home side

back on their heels at 65 for 5.

With the pitch offering uneven

bounce and Nottinghamshire's

batsmen deficient in get-

ting into line, Benjamin's first

10 overs yielded the wickets of

Guy Walton, Usman Afzaal and Paul

Johnson, all caught behind.

Once Benjamin tired, there

was always the reliable Martin

Bicknell to keep up the

momentum. After fuming on

80 for 5, Nottinghamshire lost

Paul Franks and Graham Archer,

both bowled by Butcher at

second slip, to be 112 for 7.

By now the match was look-

ing embarrassingly one-sided

but at last Read injected some

fight into the batting.

The 20-year-old, who left

Gloucestershire to take his

chance at Trent Bridge, is no

mean strokeplayer; whom many

expect to graduate to the senior

international ranks provided

his glovework develops. His

unbeaten 66, spanning two and

a half hours and 117 balls with

10 boundaries, underpinned the

addition of 101 runs for the

last three wickets with Paul

Strang and Andy Orman chipping

in with valuable support.

Going in at 43 for 5 after

choosing to bat, the Pakistani

all-rounder, Lancashire's cap-

tain hit a season's best 68 then

took the first three Durham

wickets.

Things looked bleak for

Durham at 35 for 3 in reply to

196, especially as the former

Lancashire player Nick Speak

had to be helped off with a

knee injury after taking a

diving catch. But Jon Lewis and

Paul Collingwood stopped the

beaten to bat first in the hope that, by the fourth innings, conditions might suit Saqlain and his leg-spinning teammate, Ian Salisbury. Instead, Butcher backed his seam attack to make the pitch work in his favour.

For the most part, a positive

decision paid a worthwhile

dividend. Joey Benjamin pro-

duced a prolonged opening

spell that rocked the home side

back on their heels at 65 for 5.

With the pitch offering uneven

bounce and Nottinghamshire's

batsmen deficient in get-

ting into line, Benjamin's first

10 overs yielded the wickets of

Guy Walton, Usman Afzaal and Paul

Johnson, all caught behind.

Once Benjamin tired, there

was always the reliable Martin

Bicknell to keep up the

momentum. After fuming on

80 for 5, Nottinghamshire lost

Paul Franks and Graham Archer,

both bowled by Butcher at

second slip, to be 112 for 7.

By now the match was look-

ing embarrassingly one-sided

but at last Read injected some

fight into the batting.

The 20-year-old, who left

Gloucestershire to take his

chance at Trent Bridge, is no

mean strokeplayer; whom many

expect to graduate to the senior

international ranks provided

his glovework develops. His

unbeaten 66, spanning two and

a half hours and 117 balls with

10 boundaries, underpinned the

addition of 101 runs for the

last three wickets with Paul

Strang and Andy Orman chipping

</div

Fallon wins glory, Ryan gets the pain

By GREG WOOD

THERE ARE those who would deny jockeys the right to earn a few extra pounds with adverts on their breeches. You can only hope that some of them were among the thousands crammed onto the Knave'smire yesterday, when the Ebor Handicap brought more glory for Kieren Fallon, but only pain and injury for Willie Ryan, who was left prone on the turf by the two-furlong pole after a fall into the midst of the field just as it reached maximum speed.

Ryan suffered rib and suspected internal injuries when Street General clipped the heels of Dream Of Nurture and came down. Theatreword and Cash Asmussen could not avoid him, and they too hit the turf. Theatreword trampling Ryan in process, Asmussen was able to walk away, but Ryan was taken by ambulance to York General Hospital. Last night, he was reported to be talking to the nursing staff and awaiting X-rays. He was detained overnight for observation.

How different was Fallon's experience on the Knave'smire yesterday, with victory to each of the three most important races on the card. This could only be good news for Henry Cecil, who sent out both

Catchascatchcan, in the Yorkshire Oaks, and Tuning, the winning favourite in the Ebor Handicap, although as a further reminder of the fine line jockeys tread, Cecil also saddled Street General.

By the sort of standards they like to set at Warren Place, this had not been an outstanding season for Cecil before yesterday. In Tuning and Catchascatchcan, however he has two three-year-old fillies with a rewarding autumn before them, the only problem being the division of labour over the next couple of months. The Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster next month, the St Leger at the same meeting, and the Prix Vermeille are the obvious possibilities.

Yesterday's haul was a little

over £200,000, which still leaves

Cecil a distant second to Godolphin in the trainers' championship.

His personal satisfaction, though, will have been immense. Catchascatchcan was the first Yorkshire Oaks winner to carry Lord Howard de Walden's apricot colours, and the 85-year-old owner, one of Cecil's most loyal supporters, was there - complete with an apricot rose in his buttonhole - to greet her.

Better still was the victory of Tuning, who was backed down to 9-2 favourite for the Ebor and

won in little more than an hour came aboard Joe Algarboud in the Gimcrack Stakes. The champion jockey's strength in a finish is perhaps the characteristic which punters cherish most, but here he used more gentle persuasion as his mount tried to hang in behind Sailing Shoes. The Mick Channon-trained colt responded without any need for strong pressure and eased his way home, to complete a treble which reflected final proof that, if Fallon was a jockey who had it, Fallon is a jockey who has it all.

Fallon's third major success

in little more than an hour

came aboard Joe Algarboud in the Gimcrack Stakes.

The champion jockey's strength in a finish is perhaps the characteristic which punters cherish

most, but here he used more

gentle persuasion as his mount

tried to hang in behind Sailing

Schoes. The Mick Channon-

trained colt responded without

any need for strong pressure

and eased his way home, to

complete a treble which reflec-

ted final proof that, if Fallon

is a jockey who had it, Fallon

is a jockey who has it all.

Tuning and Kieren Fallon (right) hold off Sheer Danzig (centre) in a thrilling finish to the Ebor Handicap at York yesterday

Allsport

Sainte Marine looks the each-way saver

By GREG WOOD

THERE IS no shortage of quantity at the better end of springing at present, with 17 horses lining up for today's Nunthorpe Stakes at York just a few weeks after the same number contested the July Cup at Newmarket. The matter of their quality, however, is still under debate, and there could be no

better place to settle the argument than at the Knave'smire.

Davur and Lochsong are

among the recent names to

have burned themselves into

the memory thanks to 56 sec-

onds or so of concerted effort

up the straight at York, and the

most obvious candidate to emu-

late them today is El Nadim,

who won the July Cup at

Newmarket as fast ground at

Epsom did not stop him from

winning the July Cup at

Newmarket as fast ground at

El Nadim's innate brilliance.

Today's trip, meanwhile,

is a furlong shorter, and one

over which he has yet to record

a win at any level.

In the circumstances, an

each-way alternative is re-

quired, and one runner in par-

ticular appears significantly

overpriced. Sainte Marine

(ex- best 3.10) finished only

fifth in the King's Stand Stakes

at Royal Ascot, but was badly

drawn, and unsuited by the

ground. Her form in France

gives her every chance of a

place at least, and the 12-1 with

Coral is definitely worth having.

The Lowther Stakes brings

together too many fillies with

great expectations to bet with

confidence, although Mythical

Gir (2.35) is probably the best

of them. Opt instead for JAAZ-

IM (trap 2.05) - front-runners

have been very difficult to pass

this week - and the progressive

Sugarfoot (3.45).

VERDICT: It is difficult to oppose a peak form EL NADIM on his preferred fast ground. He had the benefit of his form from an early stage of Newmarket and looked better than the other trips in the King's Stand. An outside draw will be no help to the free-running Land O'Dreams, and a more likely danger is the French raider Sainte Marine, whose early-season form is working out.

John Dunlop's runner to realise his potential, but now that he has struck winning form, he will take some beating.

Given that he may start at less than 2-1, however, it is only right to point out a few troublesome details. That course record, for instance,

owed as much to the lightning-fast ground at Newmarket as it did to El Nadim's innate brilliance.

Today's trip, meanwhile, is

less than 1-1, well when 1-1 length second in King's Stand and length third in Land O'Dreams. Corridor 10 has a few pounds to give when racing at York, and the 12-1 with Coral is definitely worth having.

The Lowther Stakes brings together too many fillies with

great expectations to bet with

confidence, although Mythical

Gir (2.35) is probably the best

of them. Opt instead for JAAZ-

IM (trap 2.05) - front-runners

have been very difficult to pass

this week - and the progressive

Sugarfoot (3.45).

FORM GUIDE

FEARBY CROPS: 20 March Unibet cut out an Inch 71 and 1m2 winner. Made 22.00

guaranteed as a yearling. This could be a stiff task for his introduction

Muniz (2 May May colt, half-brother to useful Kahale 4-1), lengthen out to 1m2 in

1m2 maiden at Newmarket. Sort to do much better, and his Group 1 entries

Prized (1 June 1m2) and 1m2 (1 July 1m2) both cut out in Group 3 races. El Nadim (2 July 1m2) and 1m2 (1 Aug 1m2) both cut out in Group 3 races. Both to be beaten.

RIVER TISSES: 21000s son of Runaway Green and a winner improved when lengthened out to 1m2 in 71 maiden at Chester. May prove out of his clasp

Stegie (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second

in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

STEGIE: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second

in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

MYTHICAL GIRL: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

JAAZ-IM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

JO MELL: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

TRIGGER HAPPY: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

RAZING: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

SUGARFOOT: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

SAINTE MARINE: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

WILLIE RYAN: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

MYSTICAL GIRL: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

JOSEPHINE: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

ELADIAN: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m2 (1 July 1m2) from family of Kahale. 4-1, run well when 1-1 length second in 1m2 at Newmarket. Good to have him back, and he should be a good chance.

EL NADIM: 1m

Henman's first success in the top 10

TENNIS
BY DERRICK WHYTE

TIM HENMAN'S first match as a top 10 player lasted less than an hour as he outplayed Vincenzo Santopadre 6-2, 6-3 to reach the third round of the Pilot Pen International in New Haven, Connecticut, yesterday.

Henman, after a week's rest since his first-round exit in Cincinnati, looked lively and fresh, serving well and volleying excellently. He dropped only eight points on his serve throughout the match against the Italian left-hander ranked No 132 in the world.

The British No 2 is seeded sixth, has a good draw and if he can reach the quarter-finals may overtake Greg Rusedski as the leading Briton for the first time in a year.

In the same event, the veteran Jeff Tarango, of the United States, and tour rookie

Lleyton Hewitt, of Australia, won first-round matches to set up a second-round meeting against two of the best in the business.

Tarango achieved a 6-2, 6-2 victory over 127th-ranked qualifier Lionel Roux of France, to move into the second round against Patrick Rafter.

A wild card recipient this week, the 151st-ranked Hewitt set up his first encounter with Pete Sampras after securing a 6-3, 6-4 win over the 63rd-ranked Sargis Sargsian of Armenia.

In the second round at the RGA Championships in Indianapolis on Tuesday, Sweden's Thomas Johansson, came back from dropping a first-set tie-break to eliminate Spain's Carlos Moya 6-7, 6-4, 6-1 with the help of 18 aces.

The top seed, the world No 1 Marcelo Rios, was untroubled, earning a 6-4, 6-4 win over America's Bob Bryan to reach the third round.

The Chilean made up for a poor performance a week ago, when he lost his first match after taking back the No 1 ranking from Pete Sampras.

Steffi Graf took just 41 minutes to overwhelm Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascual 6-0, 6-1 in a second-round match at the Canadian Open in Montreal on Tuesday. Monica Seles, the fifth seed, also moved into the third round with a 6-2, 6-1 win over American Tara Snyder. Like the seventh-seeded Graf and the other top eight seeds, Seles was playing after having a first-round bye.

Two seeded players, 18th-seeded Mary Pierce of France and 17th-seeded Lisa Raymond of the US, failed to reach the second round. American veteran Mary Joe Fernandez took advantage of an ineffectual performance by Pierce to win 6-1, 6-1 while Raymond lost to her American Fed Cup team-mate Corina Morariu 7-6, 1-6, 6-2.



World No 1 Marcelo Rios cruises to a 6-4, 6-4 win over American Bob Bryan in Indianapolis Tom Stratton/AP

Humiliation for Lindsay

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

MAURICE LINDSAY has failed to win a place on the game's new international governing body, losing out to his adversary, Sir Rodney Walker, in a major shift of power.

After beating Lindsay in an election to the Rugby League International Federation, Sir Rodney also said that he would be staying on as chairman of the League in this country. He will continue with acting as vice-chairman of the new body, with the Australian, John McDonald, as chairman.

Super League in this country, however, expressed "astonishment" that Sir Rodney was taking on the new role and "regretting his chairmanship of the League: "For him not to

have brought the matter back to the clubs before announcing his decision shows a lack of respect," said the chairman of Super League, Chris Caisley.

The Federation replaces the Super League International Board, which was headed by Lindsay, and marks the return of the worldwide government of the game to the national governing bodies.

The Federation is expected today to ratify the British proposal for a tour to Australia and New Zealand next year, followed by a World Cup here in 2000 and possibly one in Australasia two years later.

It is also expected to make progress on reunifying the rules of the game and on standardising drug testing. A new agreement will mean that all countries follow International Olympic Committee guidelines.

"Peace is breaking out all over the world," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tumcliffe, in Sydney last night. "It was just a matter of getting everyone around the table."

The Wigan stand-off, Henry Paul, has reacted with dismay to one of the first decisions of the meeting — that his club, rather than New Zealand, will have first call on him when the Super League play-offs clash with the Tests against Australia in October.

Paul, who expects to leave Wigan at the end of this season, said that the Kiwis were on the verge of a series win over Australia: "I'm shattered by the decision," he said. "I really wanted to be a part of it, but I'll try not to sulk."

The clearances for Paul, his brother, Robbie, of Bradford, and Leeds' Richie Blackmore

had to be negotiated at yesterday's meeting, after the New Zealand delegation reacted angrily to reports that they had already conceded to Super League on the issue.

Virgin have reiterated their commitment to the London Broncos, despite the Broncos' vice-chairman, Brad Rosser, leaving the parent company Virgin have delegated a sales and marketing expert, Ian Burroughs, to the Broncos board, with Rosser also staying on in an individual capacity.

The First and Second Division Association is delaying decisions on which clubs it will admit for next season. Hemel Hempstead and Goole are candidates, but a proposed merger between Wokington and Whitehaven, and the precarious finances of some clubs is giving Fasta pause for thought.

Whitaker undecided

EQUESTRIANISM
BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY

JOHN WHITAKER has yet to decide whether he will face the hazards, which include a precipitous descent from the 10-foot six-inch bank, by riding in the British Jumping Derby on Sunday at Hickstead, where the winner will collect a Peugeot car worth £20,000 and a cash prize of £10,000.

Since Diamond Cliff is being saved for Rotterdam next week, Whitaker's only possible mount is Virtual Village Haymen. The nine-year-old went so well in Aachen last week (just 0.25 of a time fault in two rounds of the Nations Cup and one error in two rounds of the Grand Prix) that he must be assured of a place for the World Equestrian Games in Rome in October.

Robert Smith, winner of this year's King George V Gold Cup at Hickstead on Senator Mighty Blue (and therefore qualified for the Derby) has already made his decision. The big grey horse, who has won two derbies this year — at La Baule in May and at the Wales and West Show last weekend, will compete in Sunday's big contest.

Four or five years ago, Smith would have been happy to sell Mighty Blue for a mere £7,000. But there were no takers for the horse, so he show-jumped the

grey himself and has since won more than £150,000 with him.

Smith knows that he will "need a lot of luck" if he is to win the plum prize with Mighty Blue on Sunday. "It's a long way round and he may get wound up, especially after the bank," he said of the 14-year-old horse, who is less headstrong than he was but is still hard to restrain.

Captain John Ledingham will be aiming for his fourth triumph — and his third with the wonderfully honest and consistent Kibala — on Sunday. But fellow Irishman Robert Spaine will be watching the Derby on television from a hospital bed. Spaine, who won the King's Cup at Hickstead two years ago, damaged his back when his horse reared over and fell on him last weekend and is now expecting to stay in Cork University Hospital for a month.

"Spain is one of the countries that carry out the most anti-doping controls, in official competition as well as in training," the statement added.

"Relations between the IOC and the COE have always been excellent and we have never received an expression of worry from the IOC over the doping situation in Spain."

The German cycling team Telekom announced yesterday it was taking steps to make sure none of its riders are using performance-enhancing drugs.

In the wake of the Tour de France, Telekom announced it will be spending £300,000 on internal drugs tests of its riders. "All the Telekom professional cyclists, including the juniors, will undergo at least five drug tests annually, performed by independent testers," said the team in a statement.

RESULTS

YORK

2-05 (10/29/98) mixed handicap

1. REED CHARGER (D) Fortune 100-3 fav

2. Morning Chorus — Nicholls 16-1

3. Hedges — F Egger 12-1

4. 6-1 As You're Walking 6-1 Man of the Night 16-1, 10-1, 10-1, 10-1, 10-1

5. The Last Word 16-1 Drivetime Bay (80) 10-1

6. Lighting Glass 16-1 Bobbi Easter 14-1

7. Cable Media Boy 14-1 The Nurse (80) 20-1

8. Follow Me 20-1 Risky Way 12-1 Blipstick

9. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

10. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

11. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

12. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

13. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

14. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

15. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

16. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

17. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

18. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

19. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

20. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

21. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

22. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

23. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

24. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

25. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

26. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

27. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

28. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

29. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

30. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

31. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

32. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

33. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

34. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

35. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

36. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

37. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

38. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

39. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

40. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

41. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

42. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

43. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

44. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

45. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

46. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

47. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

48. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

49. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

50. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

51. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

52. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

53. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

54. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

55. 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

56. 16-1 16-

European Athletics Championships: The continent's leading 200 metres runner could join a rare breed of Scottish winners.

Walker's run increases the pressure

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Budapest

DOUG WALKER steps out today into what he quaintly refers to as the amateur scene. The professional scene, according to the 25-year-old Scot with an outstanding chance of winning the 200 metres at these European Championships, takes place on grass rather than track. And usually somewhere in the Scottish border country.

Before he established himself as Europe's leading 200m runner, Walker had established himself as a prolific winner of handicap sprints — many of them raced on grass tracks with the additional hazards of ditches and cowpats. In 1994, he won six British professional titles. The final New Year sprint, at Meadowbank Stadium, yielded him £4,000. His richest prize on grass was the princely sum of £50.

This season, however, as an unbeaten run of nine 200 metres — including the European Cup title — has established him at a new level of achievement, he has been forced to acknowledge that his success has a price.

His plans to compete on grass at the Langholm meeting soon after the Bupa Games at Gateshead, where he beat the best of Britain's 400m runners over 300m, had to be cancelled. "I couldn't take the risk," he said, with just a tinge of regret, yesterday. He has had to come to terms with other adjustments in his lifestyle too.

Media interest in this stocky former rugby player — he played winger for the Scottish schools team which included current internationals Gregor Townsend and Craig John — and appeared briefly for Her-

ot's FP — has increased dramatically this year.

The pugnacious way in which he performed in St Petersburg to earn his European Cup success, and subsequently at Gateshead, where he pulverised a field which included Iwan Thomas and Mark Richardson, has established him as a Scottish Prospect. Although that as runners such as Tom McLean have discovered in previous years, is something of a mixed blessing. The pressure of expec-

tation can be intense.

"But if you are a full-time athlete, you can hardly complain," he said with a grin. "You do bigger all for five to six hours of the day. But there has been a lot of talk about these championships in the last two weeks. Probably too much talk." Now Walker is ready to substitute action for words, although his immediate preparations this week have been slightly vexed. A hocked road, following an accident, prevented him getting his scheduled flight out here by a day.

And he has arrived with what he describes as "stiffness" in his knee, which he is protecting for the moment with strapping.

However, Walker has been assured by Britain's medical staff that he will be able to run without pain. His obvious rivals include the Dutchman, Patrick Van Balkum, who ran 20.37sec three weeks before Walker produced his own season's best of 20.35sec in winning the AAA trials at Birmingham.

There is also a Dutch connection with another potential threat, Troy Douglas, the former Bermudian athlete who has switched nationality after getting married in Holland. Douglas has a best of 20.30, although he has only run 20.6 so far this year.

Walker will also be expecting a serious challenge from his own team mates, Doug Turner and Julian Golding.

The 23-year-old has had what he describes as a "roller coaster" season, performing very well in the indoor season before making disappointing showing in the European indoor championships. His outdoor form has improved gradually, but a good performance in Sheffield on 8 August has sent him into these championships in good heart. And, as he showed last season in anchoring the British sprint relay team to a bronze in the world championships, he is a championship performer.

Golding, who has a personal best of 20.31sec from last year, believes that all three Britons can reach the final, after which the medals will be up for grabs.

"It's a psychological war game out there," he said. "Assuming you are in reasonable shape, this sport is 80 per cent mental, 20 per cent physical. As long as you are in shape here, and confident, you can achieve." And if your opponents fear you, Golding added, it is even better. He recalled that, soon after he had arrived, an opponent had come up to him and asked if Walker was still running, and he had confirmed that he was.

"The others are scared of Doug, which is a big advantage," Golding said. "I am not scared of him. I respect him."

Whether feared or respected,

Walker has the opportunity this week to establish himself alongside the likes of Alan Paterson, David Jenkins, Tom McLean and Yvonne Murray in a sparse list of previous Scottish champions at these Championships.

Mitchell faces two-year drug ban

DENNIS MITCHELL, the American sprinter under investigation for alleged doping offences, has tested positive for excessive levels of testosterone in his second urine sample, the International Amateur Athletic Federation confirmed in Budapest yesterday.

The original, or A sample, exceeded the limit for the male hormone following an out-of-competition test on 1 April in Gainesville, Florida. An IAAF spokesman, Giorgio Reiner, said that the B sample, taken from the same urine and examined at a laboratory in Montreal, was also over the limit.

Mitchell, the 1992 Olympic

bronze medallist at 100 metres, will be banned for two years unless he wins an appeal before the three-member Doping Heard Board of USA Track and Field.

Mitchell, twice a bronze medalist at the World Championships and a member of the two US teams that share the world record in the 400m relay, is also president of USATF's Athletes Advisory Committee, the athletes' voice in the national governing body. The committee has taken a hard stance against doping.

Australian Olympic officials were facing the embarrassment of a drugs scandal yes-

terday just 24 hours before they confront International Olympic chiefs to push for the introduction of tough new laws on doping.

The Australian Olympic Committee confirmed newspaper reports that an Australian athlete had tested positive for a banned substance, but would not name the competitor nor the sport.

The news came just as Kevan Gosper the Australian delegate to the International Olympic Committee, was preparing to present to the IOC's executive board in Switzerland an Australian proposal to tackle drugs in sport.

Mitchell, twice a bronze



Britain's Allison Curbishley (right) leads Ireland's Karen Shinkins in the heats for the 400 metres in Budapest yesterday

Michael Probst/AP

RESULTS FROM THE EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN

100M

Seed-Rawls: Qualifiers for final.

Seed-Rawls: 1 E. Chambers (GBR)

10.15; 2 M. Draper (GBR) 10.21; 3 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.22; 4 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.23; 5 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.11; 6 T. G. Jackson (GBR) 10.27; 7 M. Nowak (POL) 10.30.

400M

FIRST ROUND: Qualifiers for semi-finals.

Brown (GBR) 10.60; 2 D. Colwell (GBR) 10.61; 3 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.62; 4 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.63; 5 M. Nowak (POL) 10.64; 6 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.65; 7 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.66; 8 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.67; 9 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.68; 10 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.69; 11 M. Nowak (POL) 10.70; 12 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.71; 13 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.72; 14 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.73; 15 M. Nowak (POL) 10.74; 16 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.75; 17 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.76; 18 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.77; 19 M. Nowak (POL) 10.78; 20 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.79; 21 M. Nowak (POL) 10.80; 22 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.81; 23 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.82; 24 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.83; 25 M. Nowak (POL) 10.84; 26 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.85; 27 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.86; 28 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.87; 29 M. Nowak (POL) 10.88; 30 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.89; 31 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.90; 32 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.91; 33 M. Nowak (POL) 10.92; 34 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.93; 35 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.94; 36 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.95; 37 M. Nowak (POL) 10.96; 38 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.97; 39 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.98; 40 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.99; 41 M. Nowak (POL) 10.100.

SECOND ROUND: Qualifiers for final.

1 D. Colwell (GBR) 10.60; 2 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.61; 3 M. Nowak (POL) 10.62; 4 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.63; 5 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.64; 6 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.65; 7 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.66; 8 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.67; 9 M. Nowak (POL) 10.68; 10 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.69; 11 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.70; 12 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.71; 13 M. Nowak (POL) 10.72; 14 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.73; 15 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.74; 16 M. Nowak (POL) 10.75; 17 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.76; 18 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.77; 19 M. Nowak (POL) 10.78; 20 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.79; 21 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.80; 22 M. Nowak (POL) 10.81; 23 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.82; 24 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.83; 25 M. Nowak (POL) 10.84; 26 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.85; 27 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.86; 28 M. Nowak (POL) 10.87; 29 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.88; 30 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.89; 31 M. Nowak (POL) 10.90; 32 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.91; 33 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.92; 34 M. Nowak (POL) 10.93; 35 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.94; 36 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.95; 37 M. Nowak (POL) 10.96; 38 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.97; 39 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.98; 40 M. Nowak (POL) 10.99; 41 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.100.

THIRD ROUND: Finalists for final.

1 D. Colwell (GBR) 10.60; 2 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.61; 3 M. Nowak (POL) 10.62; 4 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.63; 5 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.64; 6 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.65; 7 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.66; 8 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.67; 9 M. Nowak (POL) 10.68; 10 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.69; 11 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.70; 12 M. Nowak (POL) 10.71; 13 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.72; 14 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.73; 15 M. Nowak (POL) 10.74; 16 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.75; 17 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.76; 18 M. Nowak (POL) 10.77; 19 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.78; 20 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.79; 21 M. Nowak (POL) 10.80; 22 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.81; 23 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.82; 24 M. Nowak (POL) 10.83; 25 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.84; 26 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.85; 27 M. Nowak (POL) 10.86; 28 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.87; 29 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.88; 30 M. Nowak (POL) 10.89; 31 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.90; 32 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.91; 33 M. Nowak (POL) 10.92; 34 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.93; 35 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.94; 36 M. Nowak (POL) 10.95; 37 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.96; 38 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.97; 39 M. Nowak (POL) 10.98; 40 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.99; 41 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.100.

FOURTH ROUND: Finalists for final.

1 D. Colwell (GBR) 10.60; 2 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.61; 3 M. Nowak (POL) 10.62; 4 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.63; 5 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.64; 6 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.65; 7 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.66; 8 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.67; 9 M. Nowak (POL) 10.68; 10 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.69; 11 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.70; 12 M. Nowak (POL) 10.71; 13 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.72; 14 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.73; 15 M. Nowak (POL) 10.74; 16 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.75; 17 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.76; 18 M. Nowak (POL) 10.77; 19 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.78; 20 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.79; 21 M. Nowak (POL) 10.80; 22 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.81; 23 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.82; 24 M. Nowak (POL) 10.83; 25 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.84; 26 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.85; 27 M. Nowak (POL) 10.86; 28 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.87; 29 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.88; 30 M. Nowak (POL) 10.89; 31 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.90; 32 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.91; 33 M. Nowak (POL) 10.92; 34 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.93; 35 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.94; 36 M. Nowak (POL) 10.95; 37 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.96; 38 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.97; 39 M. Nowak (POL) 10.98; 40 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.99; 41 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.100.

FIFTH ROUND: Finalists for final.

1 D. Colwell (GBR) 10.60; 2 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.61; 3 M. Nowak (POL) 10.62; 4 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.63; 5 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.64; 6 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.65; 7 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.66; 8 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.67; 9 M. Nowak (POL) 10.68; 10 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.69; 11 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.70; 12 M. Nowak (POL) 10.71; 13 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.72; 14 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.73; 15 M. Nowak (POL) 10.74; 16 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.75; 17 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.76; 18 M. Nowak (POL) 10.77; 19 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.78; 20 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.79; 21 M. Nowak (POL) 10.80; 22 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.81; 23 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.82; 24 M. Nowak (POL) 10.83; 25 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.84; 26 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.85; 27 M. Nowak (POL) 10.86; 28 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.87; 29 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.88; 30 M. Nowak (POL) 10.89; 31 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.90; 32 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.91; 33 M. Nowak (POL) 10.92; 34 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.93; 35 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.94; 36 M. Nowak (POL) 10.95; 37 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.96; 38 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.97; 39 M. Nowak (POL) 10.98; 40 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.99; 41 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.100.

SIXTH ROUND: Finalists for final.

1 D. Colwell (GBR) 10.60; 2 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.61; 3 M. Nowak (POL) 10.62; 4 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.63; 5 M. Campbell (GBR) 10.64; 6 M. Krzywinski (POL) 10.65; 7 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.66; 8 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.67; 9 M. Nowak (POL) 10.68; 10 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.69; 11 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.70; 12 M. Nowak (POL) 10.71; 13 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.72; 14 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.73; 15 M. Nowak (POL) 10.74; 16 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.75; 17 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.76; 18 M. Nowak (POL) 10.77; 19 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.78; 20 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.79; 21 M. Nowak (POL) 10.80; 22 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.81; 23 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.82; 24 M. Nowak (POL) 10.83; 25 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.84; 26 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.85; 27 M. Nowak (POL) 10.86; 28 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.87; 29 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.88; 30 M. Nowak (POL) 10.89; 31 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.90; 32 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.91; 33 M. Nowak (POL) 10.92; 34 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.93; 35 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.94; 36 M. Nowak (POL) 10.95; 37 J. S. Johnson (USA) 10.96; 38 T. Jackson (GBR) 10.97;

Owen needs time to master learning curve

SO MUCH has happened so quickly for Michael Owen that too much may now be expected of England's youngest-ever international footballer.

Barely four months after doubts were expressed about Owen's readiness at 18 years old for the World Cup finals he is known worldwide and a stellar figure in the Premiership.

Owen's demeanour suggests enough maturity to handle all the attention he has received since the terrifying Argentina with his pace and scoring a marvellous goal against them, but some discretion should be shown in observation and assessment.

No English player in recent years has shown such potential. However, a fault of reporting across

the airwaves and in newspapers is to encourage a response that ignores difficulties in development. If they are good enough they are old enough is a pretty sound maxim in any sport, but allowances have to be made for gaps in education.

From some of the things that have been said and written since Owen reappeared in Liverpool's colours, most recently in last Sunday's victory at Southampton he saw him provide the pass for one goal before scoring the winner, you would think he was the finished article.

The fact that Owen still has things to learn, especially in link-up play and learning how to get the most from exceptional pace and awareness, makes his future all the more exciting.

Once Owen showed the temperament for international football he was foolishly compared with the greatest player of all time, Pele, who was a year younger when his genius was revealed in Sweden at the 1958 World Cup finals.

George Best and Diego Maradona came close, but nobody

Trouble is that people are inclined to think Owen man of the match simply from watching him in the warm-up. Liverpool's joint-manager Roy Evans made this point after Owen-mania broke out during a pre-season friendly against Internazionale at Anfield. Coming up against sensible marking and covering, Owen did nothing exceptional in that match, but exceptional performances are now automatically imagined for him.

Once Owen showed the temperament for international football he was foolishly compared with the greatest player of all time, Pele, who was a year younger when his genius was revealed in Sweden at the 1958 World Cup finals.

George Best and Diego Maradona came close, but nobody



KEN JONES

to my mind has matched the Brazilian's range of virtuosity.

Without wishing to detract from the progress Owen has made, one of the reasons he stood out in France was the absence of a truly

outstanding attacker; by which I mean one whose natural gifts were accompanied by consistent determination.

I recently discussed this with some former international players who can look back on their own World Cup experiences. They all agreed that Owen was a revelation, lighting up the tournament with his acceleration and directness. "The kid stood out and should have a terrific career," one of them said, "but there is still a lot for him to learn."

Jimmy Greaves was a similar age when launched by Chelsea in the late 50s. Within five years he was established beyond all reasonable doubt as one of the greatest goalscorers the game has ever seen.

Not long after Greaves began to

make a big name for himself Manchester United selected two teenage wingers for an FA Cup tie at Southampton. "Look out for this kid George Best," I remember Maurice Setters saying. "He's going to be exceptional."

The thing to remember about young people in sport is they are as vulnerable to ups and downs as young people in any other profession.

The difference is public scrutiny and today's quite ridiculous hyperbole.

Just about everything worth saying about Jim Murray, of the Los Angeles Times, has been penned in the United States this week following his death at 78 in California.

Obituaries identified Murray correctly as the raciest of American

sports columnists, a man of piercing insight and fearless opinion. We encountered Murray regularly at big fights, Olympic Games, golf championships, international sweat festivals of every kind. A Pulitzer prize winner in 1990 - "maybe it was for getting bad managers the sack" - Murray's column had run for almost 40 years.

Traditionally contemptuous of our heavyweights, Murray once wrote that it is perfectly in order over here for a fighter to quit on his stool. The next day on a golf course I reminded him respectfully that we didn't quit on the stool in 1940.

Murray, bless him, sent a note after hearing that I'd lost my lower right arm in an accident. "You've still got a better job than Frank Bruno," he said.

Kinnear poised to sign defender

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

WIMBLEDON ARE poised to make Onanof Lowe, a defender who played for Jamaica during the World Cup finals in France, their first signing since the end of last season.

The 24-year-old centre-back, who was recommended to the Dons' manager, Joe Kinnear, by his Jamaica team-mates, Robbie Earle and Marcus Gayle, is flying to London today to complete his £500,000 move from Harbour View. Lowe can also play as a striker but Kinnear, who has been frustrated in the transfer market this summer as intended targets have proved too expensive, wants him to beef up his back line once he has reached match fitness.

Coventry City have finally sold Robert Jarni, who never played for them, to Real Madrid today for £2.5m - a profit of £750,000 on a strange double deal. Jarni agreed personal terms with City after the club paid £2.6m to Real Betis, but when he flew back to Spain he changed his mind and agreed to join Real Madrid.

City's chairman, Bryan Richardson, said: "There were some testing negotiations and some brinkmanship but we are happy with the outcome. We would rather have had the player but now it seems the money will come back into the club and we are looking to find a similar type of player for our squad."

Middlesbrough's manager, Bryan Robson, is avoiding the risk of further embarrassment in the transfer market by refusing to comment on his move to sign Colin Cooper from Nottingham Forest until the centre-back's £2.5m transfer has been completed. Earlier this month Middlesbrough were sure of the £2.5m capture of Keith Gillespie from Newcastle United, when the transfer collapsed because the winger failed his medical.

spend on improving his squad for their UEFA Cup campaign, but the deadline for signings is today.

Celtic will face a fight to prise Alex Boksic away from Lazio if they pursue their reported interest in the Croatian striker. The Scottish champions want to sign the 26-year-old Croatian before today's deadline so that he can lead their assault on the European Cup.

The Parkhead side are understood to have targeted the 26-year-old to spearhead the defence of their Premier League title and a possible Champions' League campaign.

Celtic are understood to have started negotiations on a sum transfer of Boksic, who had

is back in training after a four-month lay-off with an injury to his right knee that forced him to miss France 98. However, the Italian club's Swedish coach, Sven Goran Eriksson, wants to keep all his strikers, who include the Chilean Marcelo Salas and Roberto Manchini.

He told *Gazzetta dello Sport*: "I am waiting for Boksic, and as soon as he is ready, he has a place in the team. I want him to play and I would like to have all the strikers available for selection. It is a shame that until now I haven't been able to see the whole squad."

Middlesbrough's manager,

Bryan Graham, will make an improved £2m bid for the Port Vale's Gareth Ainsworth. Graham sent his chief scout, Ian McNeill, to watch the wingers in midweek. Graham has money to



Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's favourite son before his departure in 1997, parades his son, Raffi, before the Old Trafford faithful on Tuesday night, prior to a benefit match for the families and survivors of the Munich air disaster. The Frenchman played for both sides, scoring for United

Owen Humphreys/PA

Eric Cantona, Manchester United's

SPORT

ENGLAND'S FINAL RECKONING P18 • HENMAN ON THE MARCH P21

European Athletics Championship: Britain's 400 metres trio advance despite misjudgement of Solomon

Wariso able to survive his stupidity

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

In Budapest

SOLOMON WARISO went to the edge of the precipice, looked over, and stepped back again here yesterday.

The man who earned the third 400 metres place at these European Championships at the expense of Roger Black came within hundredths of a second of what would have been an ignominious exit after he slowed too soon in his opening heat and failed to gain one of the three automatic qualifying places for today's semi-finals, for which Britain's other entrants, Mark Richardson and Iwan Thomas, qualified comfortably.

The misjudgement of Solomon occurred 50 metres from the line as, apparently secure in third place, he looked around him in exaggerated fashion and slowed, allowing Jan Podebradsky of the Czech Republic to pass him. Wariso had no time to respond, finishing fourth in 46.27sec to the Czech's 46.16.

There followed 20 minutes in Wariso's life that he will least want to remember. Venting his frustration by slamming his shoes on to the floor, he settled down to watch his fate determined by the three subsequent heats, hoping to progress as one of the four fastest losers.

His viewing was interrupted by the harshly jesting tones of Britain's former promotions officer, Andy Norman. "Get up Solomon," he said. "You've got to run again tomorrow. If you're lucky. Come on, get up. We'll take you outside and shoot you." Wariso did get his run, despite an uncomfortably fast final beat in which the fourth-placed runner matched his time.

After the controversy of his selection for the individual event here, following his performance in the AAA trials,

where he beat Black to third place by 0.03sec in what was his first 400 metres appearance in an outdoor championship, Wariso arrived at this event under unusual pressure. It was not necessarily fair, but it was a fact.

"I thought I would probably go through because of my time," he said. "But you can't be sure of these things. I saw some of the guys running personal bests. In his defence, Wariso said that he did not relish running in the morning.

"I had to get up at six this morning, and I don't run well early," he said.

However, he is now through. And having reduced his personal best by more than a second to 44.68 in the AAA final, this 31-year-old is talented enough to make up for his near-lapse with another impressive performance.

Wariso's fortune was not

shared by his colleague, Nick Buckfield. The 25-year-old pole vaulter from Crawley, who only made the trip out here following a last minute fitness test, landed badly in the pit during the qualifying competition and injured his back.

He was taken to hospital, where X-rays showed he had sustained no serious damage, but he returned, shaken, to the British team hotel with severe bruising to his hip.

It was a miserable exit for an athlete who had not been able to compete since improving his British record to 5.80m in Crete on 27 May, due to a knee injury which was eventually treated by the Swiss doctor Roland Biedert, whose clinic has previously been used by athletes such as Roger Black and Sally Gunnell.

Diane Modahl, seeking to reach her first major 800m championship final since winning her appeal against a four-year doping ban, failed narrowly, finishing one position

outside the four qualifying places with a time of 2min 00.08sec, just behind Natalya Dukhnova of Belarus, who recorded 1.59.95.

Aleksandr Bagach of the Ukraine, who had sparked an appeal after winning the shot put the previous night because of the weighted bindings around his arms which might have assisted his speed of turning in the circle, was allowed to keep his gold medal by the official jury.

Another competitor who had cause to be thankful to the officials was Italy's Stephano Tili, who was disqualified after appearing to get through the previous day's second round of the 100 metres. His offence was unusual — after an altercation with a track marshall, he had struck the man's hat from his head. But he was allowed back into the event after apologising.

The National Anthem played for the first time at these championships after Tamara Grey won the 800m wheelchair race in a time of 2min 06.08sec, holding off the challenge of Germany's Lilly Angremny and Sweden's Sofia Deltmann.

It was the first European title of an illustrious career for the 29-year-old from Birmingham, who has been competing at international level for 13 years and won the gold medal in this event at the Atlanta Paralympics of 1996.

Christine Arron of France won the women's 100m title in a European record of 10.73sec, after overtaking Russia's fast-starting defending champion, Irina Privalova, who took the silver in a time of 10.83.

Arron, with a distinctively dyed ginger hair, comes from Guadeloupe, birth-place of France's world and Olympic 400m champion, Marie-José Pérec.

Walker's run, results, page 22



Solomon Wariso, of Britain, on his way to narrow qualification in the 400 metres heats yesterday

Ferguson nearly out of time to buy Yorke

FOOTBALL

By DAVID ANDERSON

MANCHESTER UNITED are running out of time in their attempts to sign Dwight Yorke before tonight's European Champions' League deadline.

United have until midnight to prise the striker away from Aston Villa — and register him in time to spearhead the club's assault on Europe's main club competition — but their manager, Alex Ferguson, admitted yesterday their hopes are fading.

"It looks like it's at a dead end," conceded Ferguson. United are still hopeful of signing the player and will make every effort to do so before the deadline expires. Yorke, 26, has said he would like to join United, but only if he can play in the Champions' League if he does so.

Villa are determined to hold on to him and have rejected bids of £5m and £10m for the Trinidad and Tobago international, whom they have priced at £16m. United have so far refused to be held to ransom and have shown no signs of meeting the asking price.

Villa may be ready to do business if Andy Cole was offered as part of any deal, but according to United, that is a not an option. The Midlands club have admitted they may be forced to sell Yorke at the end of the season, when he will have just one year remaining on his contract. He has refused the offer of a new deal, which would have made him the highest paid player in the club's history, and could walk away in two years' time on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling.

Chelsea have turned down a bid from Nottingham Forest to exchange Pierre Van Hooijdonk for Chelsea's Norwegian World Cup striker, Tore Andre Flo. The Chelsea manager, Gianni Vialli, however, is considering a £2.5m bid from Forest for the Blues' defender, Michael Duberry.

The Forest manager, Dave Bassett, said: "Flo is a player I admire greatly and he would have been an ideal replacement for Van Hooijdonk. Unfortunately, Chelsea weren't interested in taking Pierre."

More football, page 23

RFU listen as clubs stand firm

RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS HEWETT

phasised his opposition to the

early formation of a British league, dismissing it as "impractical". The chairman, elected last month after a bitter scrap with Cliff Brittle, an unashamed hardliner, supports the principle of an elite cross-border tournament but is under pressure both from the International Rugby Board, the governing body of the sport worldwide, and his more conservative RFU colleagues, who believe the clubs are acting outside the spirit and letter of the so-called Mayfair Agreement, a peace deal signed in May.

Club sources described last night's meeting as the "cut-off point", insisting that no further delay would be countenanced. But even if the RFU turned full circle and agreed to back a British league, they would still have to seek agreement with their fellow unions before seeking consent from the IRB.

"The clubs' stance could hardly be more black and white; either the RFU and, by extension, the Welsh and Scottish Rugby Unions, give their blessing to a new cross-border tournament for the coming campaign, now just 16 days away, or England's leading Premiership sides openly defy the authorities by playing a season-long series of friendlies against Cardiff and Swansea, the disident Welsh teams at the centre of the latest ructions."

Baister appeared to soften his position yesterday by agreeing to last night's meeting; on Tuesday evening, he re-emphatised his opposition to the

WRU. The clubs will need people of high calibre for such a level of rugby, but I suppose it comes down to who pays the most money."

Meanwhile, the Australian Rugby Union underlined their public dissatisfaction with the performance of an under-strength England team in Brisbane in June by refusing Clive Woodward's side a second Test Down Under next summer. England will definitely play the Wallabies in Sydney on 26 June, but John O'Neill, the chief executive of the ARU, has decreed that the only extra match on offer is against the Australian Barbarians or the country's leading Super 12 side.

Only the Springboks could boast a welcome outbreak of harmony yesterday. Silas Ntumazulu, a lawyer from Port Elizabeth, will become the first black president of the South African Rugby Football Union next month, filling the substantial gap left by Louis Luyt's forced resignation earlier this year. Ntumazulu's 30-year commitment to the game in Eastern Province, the most enlightened multi-racial union in the country, ensured that his nomination would go forward unchallenged.

Leicester's England Under-21 international full-back or wing Tim Barlow is set to become the new Bristol rugby director. Bob Dwyer's first signing, after agreeing terms with the Allied Dunbar Premiership Two club,

LOWEST LINE RENTAL

This offer is exclusive to ODYSSEY



save £60 per year

FREE 20 minutes of calls per month

FREE Next day delivery

FREE Car charger (saving £20.00)

FREE Leather Case (saving £20.00)

FREE Portable hands-free car kit

(saving £45.00)

FREE Itemised billing

(save £27.50 per year)

ONLY £4.99

while stocks last

Call our credit card mail order hotline

FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY

0500 74 0000 All credit cards accepted including Switch

Open Mon to Fri, 9.00am - 7.00pm

Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm

Head Office: Odyssey Corporation Plc, 15 Old Oak Common Lane, London W3 7EL

Or post call 5p/min. Peak calls 50p. Connection charge £2.50. Peak times are 8am-9pm, Mon-Fri

Subject to status availability. Terms & conditions apply. All prices the VAT.

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

Nr. 3694. Thursday 20 August By Spurius Wednesday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6
7					8
9		10			
11	12		13		
14		15			
16		17			
18	19	20	21	22	
23		24	25		
26		27			
28		29			
30					

ACROSS

- Area where there's a lot of attention to details? (6,6)
- Place one's found in Derby, say, somewhat tucked away? (7)
- On reflection, a furrow in a country road mostly would be seen as normal? (7)
- Body of troops who'd vanished in detective story? (4)
- In a sense, a great deal (5)
- Step one takes softly to begin with? (4)
- Flowers for Hilda as arranged? (7)
- Bladed weapon man initially tried to bring into club? (7)
- Revolutionary type of tyre contains carbon? (7)
- College girl in charge of horse-race? (7)
- Bath fitted with a bit of brass? (4)
- Pass into law bill to expand hospital department? (5)
- Dog takes time and trouble? (4)
- Historical record church member found in a hasty environment? (7)
- Old science graduate joining Yorkshire Water is relatively unknown? (7)
- Doctor's qualification for identifying a type of murder? (6,6)
- DOWN
- Bring out book on Israel that's sent up in press? (7)

DOWN

- Brillshot Recital (8)
- Rural Rainmaker (8)
- Grim Gimp (6)
- Quitting Town (7)
- Eclat Headress (7)
- Postludes (7)
- Tramp Corkscrew (7)
- Historian Again (7)
- Sincere Engines (7)
- Value half of treasure, roughly (4)
- Describes what farmer's wife does? (7)
- Check that's necessary in swinging hammock? (7)
- Reluctant to dismiss student for one instance of bad language (4)
- Tell new arrival to meet at either side of entrance? (7)
- One of those keeping up the habit? (8-5)
- Line in dull epic been controversially censored? (4-9)
- Seeing that church puts an end to wrongdoing? (5)
- Bit of a rough-house? (6)
- Collapse occasioned by a bleed — opening of cut, unfortunately? (7)
- Source of oil produced in Leeds? (7)
- Going around on bite in a storm? (7)
- Moral standing's certainly required to suppress pretentious rubbish? (7)
- Writer, one entertained by brother? (4)
- Autocrat from South America engaged in transactions? (4)

©Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5QH, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01992 840370.

Thursday 20 August 1998 Reproduced as a newspaper with the Post Office

JAVICCO LTD